Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-183 *21 September 1992*

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Panama

Panama City radio reports bombs exploded on 18 September at the Electoral Tribunal, the Foreign Ministry, and Tocumen International Airport. National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez stated the attacks "are aimed at destabilizing the country psychologically and economically" and "no one has claimed responsibility." ACAN reports President Endara issued orders "to all state security organizations to 'double' vigilance in the country." Panama City radio reports "the Sovereign Panama Front [Frente Panama Soberana], an alleged subversive group the existence of which authorities doubt," claims responsibility. CRITICA LIBRE reports that it received a call from "someone who wanted it 'known that the terrorist acts...were the work of the White Hand Movement [Movimiento de la Mano Blanca]'...a new political movement that is aware of the need to eliminate Noriega supporters, communists, and the government of traitors..."

El Salvador

San Salvador radio reports the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Information Secretariat "has reported that on 21 September it will demobilize the second 20 percent of its former combatants." An FMLN spokesman stated, "this action shows the FMLN's willingness to comply with the peace agreements" and the FMLN has "the firm will to comply with all it has agreed to, in accordance with the new schedule that was agreed on" during the visit by the UN under secretary general.

Peru

Lima radio reports the judicial branch and special military courts "have been empowered to try in absentia individuals found to be responsible for crimes of terrorism and treason against the fatherland." President of the Council of Ministers, Oscar de la Puente, said the Decree-Law 25,728 "fills a legal void" and will "improve extradition possibilities." If a government abroad does not approve Peru's extradition request or resorts to "juridical schemes" that prevent someone from "facing justice" in Peru this action "will not prevent or weaken the ability of the Peruvian Government...to sanction those who deserve sentences."

Brazil

According to O GLOBO, the Foreign Ministry "denies it is aware of any Brazilian arms sales to Serbia," however, advisers "do not rule out...the possibility of a triangular operation violating the embargo decreed by a UN Security Council resolution."

Rio de Janeiro TV reports Federal Police are "studying the possibility" of initiating investigations into charges that Paulo Cesar Farias is "involved in drug trafficking." O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reports that Farias' air taxi company, Brasil-Jet, "may be involved in the 'laundering' of narcodollars." Paulo Cesar Farias has "denied any link with drug trafficking," but has asked Federal Police to begin an investigation, according to Rio de Janeiro TV.

Cuba

Alarcon Closes Seminar on Nonaligned Summit

FL1809192192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon closed the seminar on the 10th Summit of the Nonaligned Movement in Regard to the New International Situation, held at the Cuban Association of the United Nations. Alarcon spoke about the development of the great event that took place in Jakarta and added, among other things, that, in the past, we lived in a bipolar world, militarily speaking—not economically speaking. He said that with the disappearance of this military bipolarity the difference in the economic influence between the United States, Japan, and the EEC, and the Third World is increasing.

U.S. Kidnapping of Mexican Citizen Criticized

PA1909202092 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Sep 92

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The Board of Directors of the OAS Permanent Council has decided to take note of the U.S. resolution that permits U.S. agents to kidnap foreign citizens who, in the opinion of U.S. authorities, may have committed crimes for which those foreign citizens should be tried in U.S. territory. Although for the time being the Council decided only to take note of this delicate matter, this forum has put on record the verdict issued by the Inter-American Juridical Committee in the case of a Mexican who was kidnapped in his own country by U.S. agents.

This committee, the highest juridical authority of the OAS, has characterized the decision to kidnap Mexican citizen Humberto Alvarez Machain as contrary to international law. Alvarez Machain was seized in Guadalajara, Mexico in 1990 and taken to U.S. territory where he has been accused of involvement in the death of a U.S. DEA agent.

This clandestine action, carried out without the knowledge of the authorities in Mexico, a country with which Washington has an extradition treaty, was backed by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that generated worldwide criticism.

The OAS Inter-American Juridical Committee stated that the United States violated Mexico's sovereignty by ordering the extraterritorial kidnapping of Alvarez Machain, and for that reason Washington now is obligated to repatriate the Mexican, an action that does not exclude other reparations.

Alejandro Carrillo Castro, Mexico's ambassador to the OAS, said he is pleased with the Inter-American Committee's position on the matter and noted that his government will continue to seek an adequate solution to the problem by all suitable means.

The attitude assumed by Luigi Einaudi, U.S. ambassador to the OAS, was very different. He said the OAS Juridic Committee has no jurisdiction in this matter. Einaudi said he joins the OAS Permanent Council in its decision to take note of the problem because he believes that this is a neutral phrase in terms of the legal implications of the conflict.

The cynical U.S. attitude of ignoring a resolution as important as the one issued by the OAS Juridic Committee reveals not only U.S. arrogance, it also steps on Mexico's legitimate demand for respect for its rights. We must not forget that in July the U.S. Supreme Court passed a law authorizing the kidnapping and subsequent trial in U.S. courts of persons allegedly involved in drug trafficking anywhere in the world.

Alvarez Machain was kidnapped prior to the promulgation of this law, but the United States does not agree that he should be returned to his country and wants to try him in spite of the fact that a few months after he was captured a U.S. judge ordered his extradition.

The U.S. decision to ignore the verdict issued by the OAS Inter-American Juridic Committee is as arbitrary as the promulgation of the law on kidnapping people in other countries.

Apparently the country to the north believes there is no law or treaty it cannot violate or whose sovereignty it cannot trample upon, except, of course, its own.

'Parliamentarian' Censures U.S. 'Blackmail'

FL1909005192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] At the first Ibero-American Parliament meeting, which recently concluded in Madrid, Cuba censured U.S. pressures on and blackmail of governments and commercial enterprises and companies in numerous parts of the world to impede Cuba's economic and trade development. The accusation was made by Roberto Bello, president of the Foreign Relations Commission of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The parliamentarian also called attention to the propaganda campaign against Cuba and warned about the so-called Torricelli Bill, calling it an attack against the human rights of all people. The speaker recalled that the Guadalajara and Madrid Summits reaffirmed the principles of sovereignty and nonintervention as well as each people's right freely to build its political system and institutions in peace, stability, and justice.

U.S. Postpones Temporary Tourist Visas

FL1909011992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Special Interest Section of the United States of America at the Swiss Embassy informs, by way of this notice, that the initiation of the new system to obtain temporary tourist visas to travel to the United States of America has been postponed until Wednesday, 5 October. Meanwhile, the consular section will see only those people who have in their possession their corresponding interview summons.

Romanian Delegation Meets With Carlos Lage

FL1809142892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Carlos Lage, member of the Politburo and executive secretary of the Council of Ministers, held a meeting with a Romanian delegation, which is headed by the Romanian secretary of state [of the Trade and Tourism Ministry], Napolean Pop. In the meeting, they discussed the development of trade relations between the two countries in light of the new products that have been incorporated into Cuba's line of exports. Romania's participation in the completion of Las Camariocas [as heard] nickel plant was also discussed.

New 20-Peso Bill, One-, Three-Peso Coins Minted

FL1909003392 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] New 20-peso bills and one- and three-peso coins will soon begin to circulate. The 20-peso bill has the same dimensions as the other bills previously put into circulation. The blue bill bears a picture of Commander Camilo Cienfuegos. There is a pictorial composition on the back, inscribed "Food Program," which reflects the nation's agricultural activity. This bill incorporates a water mark with the signature of Celia Sanchez Manduley as well as its denomination in Braille on the back top right hand side. The one- and three-peso coins are nickel-like in color. The 20-peso bills and metal one-peso coins previously minted by the National Bank of Cuba are still legal tender and will continue to be accepted in payment nationwide.

Further Call For Electricity Conservation

FL1909131492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] I have an article here by Comrade Lino Lubens Perez which deals with the alternative to conserving electricity. It says: Traditionally in the months of July and August, the consumption of electricity increases and even though September is also hot, nothing justifies further excesses, but rather just the opposite. We must resume our habits of energy conservation to diminish the effects of the scheduled power outages. A short while ago intense heat prevailed, and it is still hot. This, coupled with workers and students who during their vacations used domestic electric appliances, lights, and watched broadcasts of the Olympic Games account for increased electric usage.

In this critical time for the national electricity system, residential demand was extensive. It reached approximately 50 percent of the total amount available to the network even though many factories, businesses, and industrial operations were on vacation or restricted by the lack of fuel and raw materials.

Specialists at the Electricity Union have warned about a tendency to neglect conservation based on the erroneous idea that service outages actually are conserving strategic fuel. They explained that the amount of energy conserved with the power outages is only 5 percent of the generated electricity. In order to affect the population as little as possible, outages are mainly applied during the day.

Cuba uses, listen well, approximately 7,000 tons of oil daily to produce electricity, an extraordinary effort. The fact that fuel has been restricted and unpredictable means involuntary power outages. Under these conditions, it is logical that the conservation and rational use of electricity in residential and public sectors will limit new, and greater service restrictions.

It is true that September is still hot. Operations are resuming at civilian institutions and other centers when personnel finish their vacations. Also, the 1992-93 school year has begun. In these conditions, conservation must be intensified on the one hand while on the other, we must try to adapt to the monthly assigned quotas in order to achieve both things.

This would be a decisive contribution, now that more than 90 percent of electricity production is generated with oil. If this is a country of eternal summer, then it can be concluded that temperature fluctuations cannot influence electric consumption because we would be condemning ourselves to live in everlasting darkness.

Further Power Outages Scheduled in Camaguey

FL1909150592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The complex fuel situation facing the country suggests the need to institute measures to keep economic and social activities of the province from being greatly affected. For that purpose, a meeting was held in Camaguey attended by Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Camaguey, and Eddy Blanco Gonzalez, President of the National Assembly of the People's government [ANPP] in the province. Other provincial leaders of the PCC, enterprise directors in the province, and ANPP leaders from all municipalities took part in the meeting.

The scarce supply of fuel in the country makes it necessary to do the following: reduce fuel allotments by a

considerable percentage, fully use sources available, and waste nothing. As far as electric service goes, the greatest outages are scheduled for the state sector. There is a possibility that the times of these outages may be extended so that the residential sector is not greatly affected by such measures. Each agency and organization present was instructed to implement measures to continue the specific tasks with a minimum use of fuel.

Haiti

Belizaire Formally Acknowledges Army Explanations

FL1809160392 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Senate President Dejean Belizaire says that he has formally acknowledged the Haitian Armed Forces' [FADH] explanations concerning repression in Haiti. The office of the Senate, however, points out that even though they cannot speak of institutionalized repression, practices contrary to human rights have been attributed to the Armed Forces. Senate President Belizaire asks the FADH to actively condemn such acts.

The office of the Senate of the Republic says that it is counting on the patriotism of the agents in authority and the Haitian Army High Command's respect for democratic values so that the concern for having things open and above board, which was seen at the 16 September news conference, can continue to materialize.

Minister Accuses Army of Killing Militants

FL1809163892 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Renaud Bernadin, planning and external cooperation minister in the ousted government told AFP that in the evening of 17 August several military men wearing blue uniforms killed three young political militants who were putting up posters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Port-au-Prince.

During a program on Television Nationale on the debate on repression between five journalists and five officers of the Haitian Armed Forces, the military said the Army had nothing to do with the deaths of those three youths while at the same time deplored misdemeanors and flaws within the Army. The three youths who were killed were Jean Martinier Remilien, Hans Philippe, and Jacquelin Gabriel. They were members of Bernadin's Open the Gate party.

Cedras Urged To End Human Rights Violations

FL1809205492 Bridgetown CANA in English 1856 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 18, CANA—Caribbean Rights, a human rights watchdog, has urged Haiti's army leader, General Raoul Cedras, to try to end what it called a nightmare of execution, torture and illegal arrests.

The appeal was made in a letter which expressed "a deep sense of outrage" over "the growing incidence of gross human rights violations in Haiti including murder and torture".

Caribbean Rights said: "The latest case of murder brought to our attention is that of Mr. Marcel Fleurzil, a fifty year old father of ten children and an activist of CONACOM, whose body was found opposite Teleco riddled with bullets on September 3. He had earlier sought political asylum at the office of the OAS (Organisation of American States) and the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince because of fear for his life."

The murder, according to Caribbean Rights, brought to more than 3,000 the number of Haitians who have been killed since the September 30, 1991 military coup against the elected government of President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

"Those Haitians who have been injured, illegally arrested, have gone into hiding, or still desperately seeking refugee status number many more thousands than those of their fellow citizens who have fallen victims to extra-judicial killings," the human rights monitoring group said.

It told General Cedras: "As a regional human rights organisation representing eight national affiliates, we appeal to you to do all within your power to put an end to this 'nightmare' of execution, torture and illegal arrests and for the restoration of constitutional and democratic government."

CONACOM Becomes Socialist International Member

FL1809182792 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Socialist International has accepted the National Congress of Democratic Movement [CONACOM] as a member during a congress held this week in Berlin, Germany. CONACOM International Affairs Committee head Micha Gaillard, in announcing this news, points out that CONACOM previously held observer status in Socialist International.

CONACOM is represented at this congress by the two main leaders of the party, Victor Benoit and Jean-Claude Bajeux. CONACOM is the second Haitian political organization to become a member of Socialist International; the Nationalistic Progressive and Revolutionary Party of Haiti has been a member of that organization for some time.

Commerce Secretary on Trade Agreement, GATT

PA1909185792 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Report by Susana Castaneira]

[Text] Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche inaugurated in Mexico City the 3d Annual Congress of the Latin American Business Council and said the Mexican Government will not accept foreign investments that affect national interests.

[Begin Serra recording] We will also ensure that the Mexican state and authorities have methods to monitor and follow-up on possible hostile takeovers and so forth so the government can prevent such actions if they are deemed contrary to national interests. [end recording]

In view of the fears of some businessmen, Secretary Serra said the Mexican Government will not allow the trilateral treaty to be used to endanger Mexican productivity and competitiveness. He said Mexico's financial system will remain predominately in the hands of Mexicans. Secretary Serra said before Latin American officials and businessmen that in the face of the globalization of markets, it is imperative that Latin America leave behind rhetoric and instead seek effective schemes for integration.

[Begin Serra recording] Mexico has a great willingness and interest in attaining integration with the rest of Latin America to increase the region's competitiveness. [end recording]

He made assurances that under the North American Free Trade Agreement there will be no trade protectionism for Latin American countries. On the contrary, warned Serra, there will be free access for area countries.

When discussing the Uruguay Round of GATT, Secretary Serra said that the international organization has neither the capacity nor the means to ensure compliance with resolutions it dictates during its discussions on trade.

Foreign Minister Concludes Visit to Spain

PA1909195692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2121 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Madrid, 18 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana said on 18 September that Mexico and Spain affirmed their positions on multilateral affairs and entered into agreements as part of their "privileged relationship."

Solana, who ended a four-day working visit to Spain, met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez on 18 September for about 40 minutes in the Moncloa Palace. The two then held a working session with Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Javier Solana.

The Mexican foreign secretary said at a news conference that during the meetings he discussed the question of bilateral relations, which was characterized by "intense dialogue" and a growing Mexican presence in Spain at all levels.

Solana ended his tour of Spain on 18 September. He inaugurated the "Mexico Today" series of seminars to be conducted by Casa de America, an institution whose goal is to promote American continent's culture in Spain.

The Mexican foreign relations minister exchanged opinions with Gonzalez on the European monetary crisis, the Latin American situation, and the follow-up to the Second Ibero-American Summit Agreements held in July.

On the question of Latin America, Gonzalez and Solana discussed the Brazilian situation with each man expressing his individual concerns while recognizing that "it is up to the Brazilians to resolve their own problems," the Mexican official said.

Brazil will host the Third Ibero-American Summit slated for 1993. The two previous summits were held in Guadalajara, Mexico and Madrid, Spain.

Solana confirmed to Spanish leaders Mexico's support for Spain's candidacy to enter the UN Security Council in 1993.

The Mexican secretary also talked with his Spanish colleague about preparations for the meeting of foreign ministers of the Rio Group and the EC, which will take place in New York at the end of 1992 during the UN sessions.

Both agreed on the need to encourage changes within the United Nations, the Mexican official said.

Both foreign ministers reviewed the application of the Madrid summit agreements.

They also agreed that a percentage of the 800 postgraduate scholarships offered by their respective countries will be granted for studies in a third Ibero-American country.

The head of Mexican diplomacy also met with Bank of Spain Governor Luis Angel Rojo, with whom he reviewed bilateral economic relations and the European monetary crisis.

Solana had previously met with Spanish businessmen and intellectuals and attended several of the "Mexico Today" artistic activities.

El Salvador

FMLN Announces Second Demobilization Phase

PA1909041692 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0320 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] This is a last-minute report. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Information Secretariat has reported that on 21 September it will demobilize the second 20 percent of its former combatants. A FMLN spokesman telephoned our station and said this action shows the FMLN's willingness to comply with the peace agreements. He added that the FMLN has the firm will to comply with all it has agreed to, in accordance with the new schedule that was agreed on during UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding's visit.

Defense Minister on FMLN Weapons Cache

PA2009031492 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Sep 92 p 37

[Text] The accumulation of weapons by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] not only maintains a climate of insecurity and anxiety, it also depicts its leadership's irresponsibility.

"If we are talking about peace, why do these groups have weapons?" the defense minister asked when he was approached by reporters.

General Rene Emilio Ponce was interviewed after the unveiling of a monument of Chilean hero General Bernardo O'Higgins. The high-ranking military officer responded categorically that this last confiscation of weapons belonging to this communist group confirms once again the unwillingness of their leaders to contribute to the nation's pacification. The confiscation of weapons took place on 16 September in a "safe house" located at the intersection of 75th North Avenue and 15 September Street in this capital.

The minister hinted that the leaders of this leftist organization either do not have control over their combatants or they are accomplices of their terrorist activities aimed at continuing the relentless attacks on the Salvadoran people. This goes on although they have signed a peace document at the United Nations and they have made a commitment to cooperate in reinstating the nation's productive activity.

Ponce indicated that weapons such as six RPG-18 rocket-launchers, one Dragunov rifle, one submachine gun, almost 5,000 rifle rounds, eight AK-47 rifles, and one Galil rifle, in addition to the rest of the war material confiscated, clearly demonstrates the FMLN has no intention of fulfilling its commitment. It demonstrates, however, that it will continue with the escalation of violence that has brought on so much sorrow.

The general also made reference to organizations such as the nongovernment Human Rights Commission and some religious groups that insist on deceiving the people while they appear to be defending a just cause. The truth is that they are only following communist orders. They no longer surprise anyone as they did in the past when they succeeded in confusing public opinion by blaming the Armed Forces for everything bad that happened here, the general said.

The general asked how many more weapons caches, such as this one, are there still in the capital and in the country side.

To conclude, he urged the FMLN leaders to consider that if they do not have control over the terrorists groups, they themselves should be the ones who point fingers at them as disturbers of public order.

FMLN's Mario Mijango on New Weapons Cache

PA1909013692 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1400 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The National Police located an arsenal on 16 September in this capital at what has been described as a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] safe house. The Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, announced the discovery of another arms cache on 17 September.

According to Coprefa, the weapons included a death ray bomb, one RPG-7 grenade launcher, one M79 grenade, two hand grenades, and eight RGD-5 hand grenades.

The FMLN has stated its position concerning the discovered weapons, adding they are ones over which the FMLN had no control.

[Begin FMLN spokesman Mario Mijango recording] Regarding this issue, I confirm that FMLN weapons were found in the cache. They are part of the weapons we are trying to collect and take to the National Army For Democracy gathering points. This is part of the pledge we made to Mr. Marrack Goulding during his last visit. We explicitly said we would strive to locate the weapons over which we have no control and, once we located them, we would proceed to gather them. We have already located some weapons and are working to transfer them to the gathering points. The UN offices in New York have the overall weapons inventory figures. [end recording]

Mijango said the Army could be plotting something concerning the other weapons discovered on 17 September and reported by the Coprefa.

Minister on UN Doubts About FMLN Weapons

PA2009004792 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Sep 92 p 58

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] continues to be viewed as the party that is failing to comply with the peace agreements because the

United Nations continues to harbor doubts about the weapons inventories the FMLN has declared and surrendered.

Presidency Minister Dr. Oscar Alfredo Santamaria made this statement on 18 September during a press conference at the Presidency as he revealed details of the most recent UN report drafted by UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding during his last visit to El Salvador.

As part of the agreement to stop armed confrontations, the FMLN proposed the concentration of all its forces. It has been verified that all its forces are concentrated. The agreement, however, also called for the FMLN to surrender all its weapons. The United Nations has stated that even though the FMLN has surrendered additional weapons, the organization continues to harbor doubts about the weapons inventories the FMLN has declared and surrendered, Santamaria added.

He pointed out this is very important because it is a very sensitive and key issue of the agreement to stop the armed confrontation. It is listed on the schedule of the agreements as the first main phase that must be completed between 16 January and 31 October.

Santamaria told reporters that after Mr. Marrack Goulding's visit, the government and FMLN committed themselves to continue the process by giving it the push it needs to meet the deadlines specified on the schedule of the agreements, especially the 31 October deadline.

This entails hard work. The government has worked exceedingly hard—our country has had greater commitments to fulfill the agreements than the FMLN, Santamaria added. As President Cristiani said, we are maintaining our political willingness to make the peace process a priority and channel all our efforts and resources to attaining peace.

As a result, the minister said, the UN report drafted by Mr. Marrack Goulding states the government has complied with most of its commitments and, if there are any points pending, they will be complied with by 30 September. I think we can achieve this, Santamaria added.

FMLN Allowed To Conduct Campaign Activities

PA1909220492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council has legally authorized the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to conduct compaign activities all over the country as part of the 1994 elections. Rebel leader Gerson Martinez felt the outlook for the FMLN as a political party is enormous. To that effect, the FMLN will begin programs to become involved in the elections. He said the group has offices opened in 40 municipalities, and, in addition, the group's presence in the 14 departments is considerable. For that reason, one can expect good results in the elections, he stated.

Honduras

Callejas on FMLN Visit; Pledges ICJ Support

PA1909024892 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] leadership confirmed to the Honduran Government on 18 September that it intends to respect the International Court of Justice decision but, explained President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, any problem arising from this situation will be subject to the country's laws and sovereignty.

[Begin Callejas recording] The FMLN has clearly informed us that it will adhere to the decision, that its members are willing to contribute to making the integration process or any resolutions fall within a framework of good faith so we can solidify what we all desire—a border free Central America—and so that everyone will benefit without any negative effects for the people.

The Binational Commission for Humanitarian Affairs will develop a system in Honduras with El Salvador that must take these problems into consideration. They are serious and we must acknowledge [word indistinct] in order to deal with them. [end recording]

On 18 September guerrilla commanders met with the Binational Commission to request solutions for certain humanitarian problems affecting residents in the recovered areas. The commission must, in the end, decide on the disposition of their properties and nationalities. The commission listened to the FMLN and will later inform the president, who said he is willing to listen to those who may be affected by the resolution, but that the decisions will be subject to the legal framework and Honduran sovereignty. Callejas pointed out that he intends to deal with these problems.

[Begin Callejas recording] The legal foundations of Honduran jurisdiction must now be established, and we will do so. Many mechanisms exist but it is too early to consider them. I intend to act in such a manner that all who are involved—especially individuals—will be satisfied with the acts we will carry out on Honduran territory. [end recording]

President Callejas said he will travel on 19 September to the recovered territories in Jalapa and Dolores to prove his government's intentions. In the near future he will visit Aguanterique, Cayahuanca, and Guascoran. The president also announced that in the last week of September he will travel to El Salvador to inform the Salvadoran Government and people not only of his decision to adhere to the decision but to establish closer ties.

Minister on FMLN, Binational Commission Meeting

PA1909013992 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 18 Sep 92 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata on 17 September said that for the time being the Binational Commission is limiting itself to listening to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commanders, because it will be tasked with handling all border problems as soon as it is formally installed.

Carias added the FMLN commanders met separately with the Binational Commission and Foreign Ministry officials to discuss their problems as some FMLN members reside in the formerly disputed areas.

"We listened to them and our initial conclusion is that a Binational Commission (made up of) El Salvador and Honduras is the mechanism that was created to handle problems of this sort," Carias said. This commission will be installed during a visit by President Callejas to San Salvador on 28 September, he added.

Carias reaffirmed "all the concerns" voiced by the FMLN will be channeled through the Binational Commission.

He reported the Salvadoran guerrilla delegates said that "given that there are people of Salvadoran origin in the pocket areas, they hope these people will receive guarantees and humanitarian treatment while their fate is determined in the upcoming months and years."

The official, however, said the institutions commission has not yet finished its examination of Honduran legislation to determine what measures will be adopted in this regard.

He said the 17 September meeting was only the first "to listen to the FMLN delegates."

Carias added the FMLN commanders "reaffirmed their decision to support the court's ruling and to recognize it fully," despite their concerns for the residents of the formerly disputed areas.

The minister said the FMLN referred to between 10,000 and 15,000 residents of those areas. But he thinks the Honduran Government does not believe the figure to be that high.

The official flatly ruled out the possibility of increasing the military presence in those areas, especially in Nahuaterique.

Commander Discua on FMLN Problems, Border

PA1809222592 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by Marvin Lopez]

[Text] Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander general of the Honduran Armed Forces, has stated that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] must find its own solutions with the Salvadoran Government.

[Begin Discua recording] They (?should meet with) Salvadoran Government representatives to discuss any problem they may have had or now have in the Republic of El Salvador. That is where they should discuss those things. [end recording]

Div. Gen. Discua said the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling is clear, and only a few settlers refuse to abandon the zone. The Honduran Armed Forces' presence has always prevailed in those territories because it is a constitutional duty, and they have acted with the greatest possible caution and respect, he added.

The military officer ruled out the possibility that the government might have to request the presence of international observers in the recovered territories to legitimize the implementation of the ICJ ruling. For humanitarian reasons many actions should be corrected in the border zone, which will be visited by the president of the Republic and the Binational Commission on 18 September, he said.

[Begin Discua recording] The situation will logically return to normal once the problem is solved. The problem should not be magnified or given importance it does not have. The right thing is to [words indistinct] friends and reach an agreement in a reasonable way. I think our binational commission will solve the various social problems that may arise. [end recording]

To conclude, the commander general said he will possibly meet with his Salvadoran counterpart to closely analyze this and other problems that may arise from the ICJ ruling.

FMLN Delegates Comment on Border Area Talks

PA1909041892 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—A Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) delegation warned that a massive deployment of Honduran Army troops in the land pocket areas could cause unstable conditions in the region.

The FMLN delegates said there are approximately 15,000 Salvadorans in the pocket areas, mainly in the Nahuaterique pocket, which were called "liberated zones" by the rebels who fought against Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's government until February 1992.

The National Commission in charge of solving the nationality and property problems of Hondurans and Salvadorans negatively affected by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling met with the FMLN delegates at the government palace on 17 September.

The FMLN delegates include Miguel Saenz and Salvador Mejia, members of the FMLN political-diplomatic commission, and Salvador Sanchez and Jorge Melendez, members of the FMLN General Command.

The FMLN officials said the FMLN respects and will comply with the ICJ ruling on the border dispute with Honduras. They added that the FMLN is concerned for the people in the land pocket areas "who could suddenly be uprooted."

The FMLN delegates said the ICJ ruling, which gave Honduras the land pocket areas occupied by them and their followers, had "caught them by surprise."

"As the FMLN we have a big responsibility to most of the population in land pocket areas such as Aracatao, Nahuaterique, and Dolores Monteca. Those are areas of conflict included in the Salvadoran peace agreements," Commander Salvador Sanchez stated.

"The peace agreements (which ended the Salvadoran civil war in February 1992) include the northern land strip. In compliance with the agreements, we started a process to reconstruct the country and those areas (the land pocket areas) are included as zones to be reconstructed," he added.

He also expressed the concern of Salvadorans for the system that will be implemented in the pocket areas, the nationality of the people in those areas, and their freedom to move between Honduras and El Salvador.

Commander Jorge Melendez stated "the FMLN had political and military control of those areas for the past 10 to 12 years" and, thus, it has a decisive influence on the population.

"It is necessary to carry out an integration process. We will endeavor to obtain full assurances that the citizens' rights and many other things will be respected so they can live in peace, knowing that their physical integrity and properties will be respected," Melendez said.

"We say that the most adequate and positive strategy is not to impose a massive military presence on those areas. The process should be carried out gradually and concurrent with actions that will benefit the people," he added.

Miguel Saenz said, "An abrupt military presence would obviously prompt attitudes that could lead to uncertainty."

The FMLN officials called for a gradual process, in keeping with the three-month period set by the ICJ to start marking the new border between Honduras and El Salvador.

Melendez said he was concerned that FMLN followers in Honduras would be subjected to discrimination and that they would live in uncertain conditions.

Sanchez stated the FMLN had informed Honduran authorities of the mined zones in the Filos-Canada areas of the Zazalapa pocket area so that preventive measures could be taken to avoid any deaths. The FMLN and the UN Observers for El Salvador have marked the mined areas.

Sanchez said they had requested dual citizenship for the Salvadorans who live in the pocket areas and that such an action would agree with the Central American integration process and other initiatives like the one called the Trifinio Program [regional agreement for agricultural, industrial, and community development projects] that is being developed in the common border areas between Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

He said the FMLN will go to the Central American Parliament to promote the concept of free movement for all citizens of the countries in the region.

The FMLN delegates described the results of their talks with the Honduran commission as "positive." According to officials, however, the latter listened to the FMLN's concerns but did not give them any definite response.

Nicaragua

Government Protests Helms, DeMoss Remarks

PA1909023192 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has protested verbally to the U.S. State Department over remarks by Jesse Helms and Deborah DeMoss, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said on 18 September. Leal said that DeMoss reportedly threatened Nicaragua with military intervention, putting Sandinists in prison and politicians on trial, clearly and openly meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs. He said he will study the most recent remarks by DeMoss, who for several weeks has used the Nicaraguan media to attack the Violeta Chamorro government's reconciliation policy. Although he did not give many details, Minister Leal said a verbal complaint has been filed with the U.S. State Department over the actions by Senator Helms' staff because they could harm relations between the United States and Nicaragua.

Callejas Postpones Visit to Nicaragua

PA1809210992 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal reported on 17 September that due to the upcoming Central American presidents' meeting to be held in Honduras, Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has postponed his visit to Nicaragua, which had been scheduled for late September.

Leal said he spoke on 16 September with his Honduran counterpart, who confirmed that Callejas will not go to Nicaragua because the Central American presidents are going to Tegucigalpa on 3 October to attend an event to

commemorate the anniversary of distinguished Honduran citizen General Francisco Morazan. Leal said Callejas will visit Nicaragua, but at a time when the president will have more time and will not be forced to stay only overnight.

Warrant Issued for Ibarra; Official Comments

PA2009002992 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Eighth Criminal District Court issued on the morning of 17 September the definite [segura] and formal warrants for the arrest of Antonio Ibarra Rojas, as principal offender, and Luis Orestes Pereira, Dora Leonor Echevarria Bernheim, Yuardin Cuadra Hernandez, Maria Celia Montealegre, Fatima del Socorro Perez Sanchez, and Roger Baldizon Ibarra, as accomplices. In this same ruling the judge ordered the temporary stay of proceedings against Alba Marina Baldovino Rodriguez, Edgar Macias Gomez, and Miguel Angel Baldizon Ibarra. Penal Attorney General Jose Antonio Fletes was interviewed after the ruling was known:

[Begin recording] [Fletes] The [words indistinct] of the Republic was waiting with great interest for this ruling ordering the definite and formal warrant for the arrest of Antonio Ibarra Rojas. We think the extradition procedures should begin as soon as possible. The ruling ordering his imprisonment was issued on 17 September, and we will begin the legal procedures on 18 September. We will meet the requirements set by the law based on the 1907 treaty between the United States and Nicaragua.

We think it is appropriate to tell you the judge clearly established the agency involved, namely the Social Care Fund for the Downtrodden, which functions independently of the Presidency Ministry. The Presidency Ministry, moreover, is in no way connected to the case. A legal and technical study was conducted to reach that conclusion. We will conduct the remaining legal procedures so a jury will decide the case. The people of Nicaragua, therefore, will not be defrauded. Too many people are going hungry and we cannot let that continue because of this man.

[Unidentified reporter] When will this trial by jury begin?

[Fletes] I estimate it may take until December. Within that period, we will do our best to process his extradition. We will seek enforcement of the existing extradition treaty. We must follow the procedures and requirements established in that treaty.

[Reporter] Will this take one month?

[Fletes] We are likely to have a response by the time the trial begins.

[Reporter] What was the result of all your work?

[Fletes] What is the result, you say? The result is that the Comptroller General's Office issued a ruling that was in essence a technical accounting report. According to the Comptroller General's Charter, the Attorney General's Office is in charge of establishing the legal procedures, that is, of making a legal analysis based on the complicity, or culpability, or innocence of those accused. The Attorney General's Office is tasked with filing charges through the legal system, which is what we are seeing now, and the legal system will determine the culpability of the accused.

The Comptroller General's Office is not empowered to establish culpability, as that falls within the purview of the Attorney General's office and the officiating judge. In this case, we have followed up on the investigation by the Comptroller General's Office, and we feel the rulings adhered to the law. I think the judge disagreed with the views of the Attorney General's Office and the Comptroller General's Office. The judge dropped all the other charges and only considered the embezzlement count. We feel the decision adheres to the law, based on the judicial investigation that was conducted. [end recording]

Deputies Ask Court To Force Cesar's Obedience

PA2009043592 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] Deputy Sergio Ramirez, head of the Sandinist National Liberation Front faction, and Deputy Gustavo Tablada, leader of the so-called Opposition National Unity "center group," on 18 September asked the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) to force Legislative Assembly President Alfredo Cesar to obey the judiciary's ruling.

In a note delivered to the CSJ Secretary Alfonso Valle Pastora, Ramirez and Tablada recalled that the Managua Court of Appeal ordered and reconfirmed its ruling, whereby any action taken during the 2 September parliamentary session has been temporarily suspended. This includes the election of two new secretaries who are close to Cesar.

The controversial parliamentary chairman has refused to obey the appeal court's ruling and the Supreme Court can charge the offender with contempt, according to the amparo in force. The court then may appeal to the executive power to use other procedures to force compliance of the law.

Valle Pastora said the CSJ has 24 hours to reply to Ramirez and Tablada, therefore, a resolution is expected by 21 September.

The request for the court's intervention to enforce compliance with the temporary mandate of the Court of Appeal is not part of the amparo appeal signed by the Legislative Assembly deputies claiming Cesar held a session without a quorum on 2 September. In addition,

he acted without the presence of the Board of Directors secretary and he altered the agenda, thereby violating the parliamentary by-laws.

The CSJ should rule on the amparo appeal by next week, establishing the legality of the 2 September session, however, Alfredo Cesar said he did not recognize the Nicaraguan Supreme Court's jurisdiction.

Although he still refuses to obey the Appeal Court's ruling to suspend the actions, Cesar did obey the mandate to "appear" before the Supreme Court to learn of the amparo appeal filed against him.

According to information obtained on 18 September, before Ramirez and Tablada arrived at the CSJ, Cesar sent one of his lawyers to "appear" personally. Cesar was given a 72-hour delay to deliver his plea against the amparo appeal.

Considering all the extensions granted until now, it is believed the CSJ will issue its definite ruling before 25 September, when Alfredo Cesar will attempt once again to assemble the minimum quorum established by law to meet, although this goes against the Appeal Court's prior ruling.

Police Charter Amended To 'Favor' Sandinists

PA1809211192 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The National Police Charter Law is undergoing its first amendments, even though just a few days ago the people were told the law was ready. President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro announced on 9 September that the Charter was ready but did not show it to anyone. Reliable sources indicate that the Charter was not unveiled because it is undergoing its first amendments in favor of the Sandinists.

The original law empowered the government minister to appoint departmental police chiefs. In the amendments the government minister is being totally left out. Sandinist Commander Augusto Fernando Caldera, the National Police chief, now has that power. The government minister's authority is being revoked in the amendments to this law.

EPS Operation Will 'Neutralize' Recontras

PA1909034292 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Sep 92 pp 1,12

[Text] A spokesman of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) has confirmed to BARRICADA that the EPS will begin a vast military operation in northern Nicaragua on 18 September to neutralize the recontra groups that are organized militarily "with specific political objectives."

Captain Eduardo Medina of the EPS Public Relations Department explained that it is a combined operation that will include the Air Force, artillery, and infantry troops of Regions 1 and 6.

He noted that the EPS intends to disband the rebel groups that are trying to form the general staff of the so-called 3-80 Command which, unlike other groups that are active in the country, seeks a military confrontation.

The groups, which he did not identify, are said to be those that recently announced the so-called 15 September plan. This plan included blowing up a bridge and a hydroelectric plant and killing Sandinist political leaders.

Medina confirmed that some of these groups attacked police and EPS posts in El Jicaro on 11 September. They also carry out "recovery" operations [operativos de recuperacion] on the Panamerican Highway between Esteli and Condega.

The EPS plan, Capt. Medina added, will be headed by Lieutenant Colonels Pedro Agurcia and Rodrigo Gonzalez, chiefs of the Army's Regional Commands 1 and 6.

Medina denied that the new operation is part of the so-called Winter Plan the EPS is carrying out against recontra groups involved in criminal activities. He noted that this plan will not include those who act to demand compliance with agreements, such as the recent attack on Camoapa in central Nicaragua.

The spokesman stressed that he had no precise information on the number of men who will participate in the operation but guaranteed that complete information will be offered to reporters invited to the theater of operations on 18 September, when the plan will officially begin.

* Commentaries View FSLN-UNO Conflict

* Dialogue Suggested

92CA0202A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Aug 92 p 10

[Commentary by Pedro J. Chamorro, Jr.]

[Text] Almost three years ago, when I was appointed political adviser to the UNO's [United Nicaraguan Opposition] presidential candidate at the time, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, I said that I would try to smooth the ill feelings that had come between the UNO's Campaign Committee and the opposition alliance's Political Council.

In reality that was a nice way to put it, because by then it was already evident that a tremendous rift existed, which during these two years of government has steadily widened to the point that, at present, the positions taken by UNO are invariably perceived by some as offensive to the government and by the Sandinists as a "new conspiracy" or "intended coup d'etat."

I venture to say that, since then, hundreds of statements emanating from the UNO and the parties and organizations that supported Chamorro in the electoral campaign

have urged the healing of this rift separating the government from its bases—a rift that has deepened as the government positions have moved closer to those of the losing party and away from UNO's platform.

The demands of the political parties and organizations that founded UNO have been constantly and insistently reiterated, like a broken record still being heard, day after day, on radios throughout Nicaragua, throughout hundreds of interviews, letters, and statements.

Recently, this popular outcry took the form of a joint statement signed by the three highest ranking elected officials after the president: Vice President Virgilio Godoy, National Assembly Speaker Alfredo Cesar, and Managua's Mayor Arnoldo Aleman.

Even Cardinal Miguel Obando himself came out in support of this "broken record" being played by the UNO's leaders, who basically are asking the government to adhere to the original platform and carry out the commitments undertaken with UNO.

All the demands could be discussed, analyzed, and negotiated within the ambit of a full-scale national dialogue, the first phase of which must take place between the government and UNO. Thereafter, it must include the UNO government, the political opposition, private enterprise, and the trade union sector.

I think that the least the executive branch should do is to convene the document's signatories for a high-level dialogue and not show disrespect for them, because this would lead to a new confrontation between the government and its voters.

It is clear that the government already has too many problems, what with the violent protests being promoted by groups connected with Sandinism, the cut in U.S. aid, the economic situation, the problem of property rights, and the need to reactivate production and to make changes in the Army and National Police. Consequently, it does not need a new problem, on the contrary, it needs solutions to a comprehensive crisis.

Sandinism is wielding a double-edged sword: Publicly, on the one hand, it expresses support for the government but only if and when the government hands it a greater share of the power. And privately, on the other hand, it holds the government in permanent check through its pressure groups and organizations.

To further strengthen its influence over the government, the Sandinists have led it to believe that they are the only ones supporting it and that any attempt to reach an accord between the government and its bases will be branded by the Sandinist party's propaganda machinery as a "new attempt at a coup d'etat."

Thus goaded, the government has no choice but to take refuge under the Sandinists' "protective" umbrella, which presents itself as essential to the government's very existence.

The country needs an all-encompassing national agreement, not more secret coexistence pacts, or "Kupia Kumis," as this type of political agreement reached behind the public's back used to be called in the past [reference is to an 1842 interparty agreement].

The bases for internal coexistence must be defined, so that there can be true social peace, so that production can be revitalized and so that the overwhelming unemployment and poverty problem can be dealt with. The crisis must be recognized, and a solution sought such that both the government and the voters will be the stronger for it.

The document signed by the three officials proposes a solution to this crisis. The government must not take it as an ultimatum. But I believe that the government must take it with the seriousness that the crisis warrants.

* UNO Alienation Explained

92CA0202B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Aug 92 p 10

[Commentary by Alberto Zapata Ramirez]

[Text] For as long as historical data have been compiled, this country's internal strife has continued unabated. But the most striking thing is the never-ending ingenuousness of our national politicians. Recent history is the clearest of any examples that may have previously existed.

The UNO [United Nicaraguan Opposition] won the February 1990 elections. Two years later, however, it is abundantly clear that Nicaragua is not being governed by this coalition. This is sad, because the population based its hopes and expectations on the government platform that was to end the social and economic instability created by Sandinism. And it is on this basis that the population is judging the government—supposedly, but not actually, the UNO government.

Why this alienation of the UNO from the government? Its basis is to be found in the fact that the coalition was not represented as such in the transfer of power, the receipt of which was headed by a relative of the president who went so far as to sign a Protocol of Transition, which, like its name, is ambiguous and unknown to the Nicaraguan people.

The same representative became the cornerstone of the government and, under the mantle of interpreter of the president's thinking, has further developed the government's pacts with the Sandinists, increasing the share of economic and political power he granted them on his own in the so-called Protocol of Transfer.

That pact legalizes the theft of more than $12 billion. It is built over the dead of both sides in the struggle, with the difference, however, that the "commandantuchos" ["little 'commandantes'": a derogatory reference to Sandinista leaders] turned it to their own good financial account, and the members of the Resistance turned in

their guns so as to reenter society, placing their trust in the person of our president.

It grants continued existence to the Army as such and as it was: That is, it legalizes the paid-gun assassinations, inside and outside the country, committed by that group from the very moment of its takeover of power in 1979. It also legalizes the terrorist training schools that were installed in this country by international communism and still exist. It upholds the employees who were maintained by the communist regime, employees the UNO deems incapable and to whom history has delegated the honor of having set the country's economic growth back by 50 years and of having brought in all the scum of the earth they could find in the world, in order to glorify their party, eat our bread, be trained, and track down and even assassinate Nicaraguans.

It preserves the economic power the Sandinists have amassed, a product of the theft of the public's donations and the national treasury stolen from all of us, since much of that money comes from this country's foreign debt.

The course of the past two years has been even sadder. The Sandinists' economic power has increased, financed by the resources obtained by the government. Despite the extent of that power, the "leaders" of this group use their armed cooperatives and add groups to it to seize land in order to further increase their economic control and, in addition, destabilize the government. They "reduce" the Army, but maintain its organization and continue to depend on its structures, although deceitfully.

The communist-leaning nongovernmental organizations continue supporting the group of persons who robbed our national treasury, signaling clearly that our future is not their concern.

Invited by the communists, these gentlemen travel abroad giving lectures in other countries, as if they were persons of revered honor. To cap it all, they have traveled together with government delegates to ask for financial aid!

In truth, this group of gentlemen lacks shame, but even more lacking in shame are those who, knowing them for what they are, discuss our problems with them and arrange to be accompanied by them on trips to foreign countries and organizations. What can be deduced from this is that just as those people were imposed on us, by maintaining their jobs, their economic and military power, and who knows to what extent their political power, so also has an effort been made to confer on them this image of honorable persons in foreign circles. Still another deplorable mental attitude!

On the UNO side of the rift, from whatever angle it is analyzed, things are bad. It won the elections but did not take over the power. Everyone bowed to the Protocol of Transition signed by the president's delegate. UNO plays the role of a real opposition, demanding the attention of the government so as to convey its mistakes to it, and is usually ignored.

From the political viewpoint, what is most conspicuous about UNO is its ingenuousness. The majority sees itself as the government, rushes to its defense, meets with the Sandinists to address the problems created and orchestrated by the Sandinists, comes out of those meetings "satisfied," and in their statements expresses their broad democratic turn of mind and even revels in the token traces of goodwill shown by the communists. With references to a Sandinism of the center, and to the democratization of Sandinism, they let themselves be dragged into all the traps laid by the Sandinists and even go about examining minutely the attitudes of that group in search of microscopic evidence of civilized, democratic tendencies.

But UNO's problem is more serious. The responsibility for the return of the Communists to power stems from UNO's ineptitude as a governing force. It must not simply stand by and allow the minister imposed by the president to continue to drag us into this debacle. Violeta Chamorro is the banner that UNO carried to the elections, and, given her personal virtues, she is historically our most suitable president. But she needs support that is belligerent, not purely small-minded political maneuvering (at a time and for the period of collective desertions); but a support that is always at her side providing counseling, in discussions, and partaking of the coresponsibility of all the group's participants. To say that this is impossible to achieve simply amounts to abdicating our position as a people and awaiting the return of these adventurers to power.

The UNO cannot simply allow injustice to continue its advance, even during the period in which the UNO is responsible for governing. A de facto law exists in the streets of this country, where what Sandinism steals cannot be returned, not even the citizenships bestowed as a gift on the lapdogs of international communism. The assassinations of Nicaraguans inside the country and abroad and the assassinations of foreigners inside the country and abroad are cases for the judiciary, requiring analysis and clarification.

The dissolution of the armed forces and the police are requirements that the UNO must undertake and not leave to Chamorro. We must remember the words of one of the unfortunate communists, who said: "To stay in power we need to build a bigger and stronger Army than the Somozist Army." This puts two things in their true perspective: The idea of communism's perpetuity, and the inherence of its dictatorial system. This will cost lives, of course, and our national politician has not been characterized by an excess of courage. But it is necessary, and the UNO must take cognizance of the historic challenge that has fallen to its lot to meet.

Communism has a high degree of similarity to the international mafia: silencing by assassination, infiltration, toadies, torture, tentacles (long arms that respect no borders), and its "honest men" libeled by its opponents. Struggling against that clan and upsetting its "business" is something that inherently involves death. Nevertheless, and despite there being honest persons among its sympathizers who oppose a radical change (principally youths, out of aspirations and romanticism), this country, for its own good and although it may not now understand it to be so, must embark on the radical changes needed to truly institute democracy.

This does not mean creating a radical capitalism, but rather a liberalism with a full measure of social justice and a high degree of tilt toward our historically most neglected sectors. It means inclining toward a fair distribution of our national wealth among all Nicaraguans. It therefore necessitates restoring to all foreigners their true nationalities.

* FSLN Fears Plebiscite

92CA0202C Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Aug 92 p 14

[Commentary by Luis Sanchez Sancho]

[Text] One of the Somozas stated on a certain occasion that he had studied for the Presidency of the Republic. Actually, all of the principal members of the dynastic family believed they were predestined to exercise Nicaragua's political power. Worse yet, they believed that Nicaragua was their personal property, and for 43 years they administered it as such.

Everywhere in the world, and in all of history's eras, dictators and tyrants have believed they had the right to seize power and govern until the last day of their lives.

That is why the leaders of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] suffered a terrible political trauma when they learned that the majority of the Nicaraguan people had voted against the Sandinist dictatorship. It was very difficult for them to admit defeat, and they only acknowledged the UNO's [United Nicaraguan Opposition] victory when forced by international pressure and after being given assurances that their share of power and the privileges they had accorded themselves would be maintained by the new government.

But despite their having been obliged to acknowledge their defeat and their having allowed a peaceful transfer of the government, the FSLN leaders continued to believe that they were predestined to exercise power and announced the sinister strategy of "governing from below." As a consequence of that strategy, Nicaragua has had to put up with a string of strikes, roadblocks, attacks on public offices, kidnappings and assaults against persons, destruction and looting of state institutions, sabotage of the country's economy, and many other calamities.

Now, one of the principal Sandinist leaders who habitually dons the cloak of "moderation," explains blithely in LA PRENSA that this destabilizing tactic is due to the fact that the FSLN is a party "trained to govern," and moreover, to govern by means of war.

It is being brazenly asserted that the attacks against government-owned and privately-owned property, the assaults against persons, and the riots that on one occasion destroyed even Managua's mayoralty, are but normal "emphasis" in the discourse of some "revolutionaries."

It is typical of shysters to lie and to irresponsibly falsify the facts and the opinions of others. It is being said, for example, that the democratic leaders' proposal to hold a plebiscite is intended to shorten Chamorro's term of government and put its legitimacy into question. And the FSLN is being cast as the "defender" of that legitimacy, the "protector" of democracy, and President Chamorro's guardian.

The truth is that the purpose of the plebiscite is to enable the people to declare whether they agree to let the Sandinist "pinata" [Sandinist government's appropriation of land and property after its electoral defeat] remain intact, whether the courts must continue operating under control of the FSLN political staff, whether the Sandinist police corps must continue to exist hidden inside the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], and whether the Sandinist leaders must remain forever at the head of the Armed Forces.

But the Sandinists lie about these proposals because they are afraid of a plebiscite—because even though they believe they are predestined and say they are trained to govern, they know that a popular referendum at this point in time would yield not even a 20-percent vote for Sandinism.

It is logical, of course, that the Sandinist leaders should defend their shares of power and the immense wealth they amassed while they were absolute masters of the country. It is understandable, too, that they tamper with other people's words, distort facts, and associate with anyone, with the excuse of protecting what they pompously call "the revolution's conquests."

What is deplorable and painful is the fact that some of the officials of the new democratic government, the instituting of which cost the people thousands of dead, persecuted, tortured, exiled, and humiliated, are making common cause with the FSLN's extremist leaders.

The leaders and members of the parties that comprise UNO, and the people who support them, are not against national reconciliation nor do they promote revenge. They are neither instigating violence nor do they wish a return of war. Those who have incited, organized and directed violence, revenge, riots, and hatred have been precisely those extremist leaders of the FSLN, who are bent on protecting "their" homes, "their" properties, "their" businesses, and their shares of power.

UNO's desire, and the desire of all the democratic forces, is that justice be done, that the independence of the powers of the state be maintained, that the armed and judiciary institutions be democratized, and that the government be administered in keeping with the UNO's democratic and reconciliatory platform and not according to the interests of those who oppressed and bloodied the country for all of 10 years and who now want to remain in command, as if nothing had happened.

Panama

Bombs Explode at Tribunal, Ministry, Airport

PA1909033992 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0328 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] At approximately 0210 GMT, a bomb exploded at the Electoral Tribunal. Five minutes later, bombs exploded at the Foreign Ministry and at Tocumen International Airport, where two people were injured. A fourth bomb did not explode at the airport.

Police Director Cited

PA1909040692 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0318 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Interview with National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez by unidentified reporters at the Electoral Tribunal in Panama City—live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Fernandez] ...As you may know, it is very difficult to determine where or when one of these bombs will go off, but based on police checkpoints and constant and permanent patrols by the Judicial Technical Police and the National Police, we can dissuade the people who are behind all this.

[Reporter] Did you have contingency plans for these situations?

[Fernandez] That is correct. As soon as this happened, our plans were implemented. In fact, one bomb did not have the chance to go off at Tocumen Airport and is being deactivated by National Police explosive experts right now. We are waiting for them to come here to the Electoral Tribunal so they can go into the building.

[Reporter] Do you have any reports that this is happening elsewhere in the Republic?

[Fernandez] This is not happening anywhere else. It happened only here, in the capital and tonight.

[Reporter] How do you describe these attacks?

[Fernandez] These are attacks on the democratic system. They are aimed at destabilizing the country psychologically and economically.

[Reporter] Has the subversive group 20 December Movement threatened to attack [words indistinct]?

[Fernandez] No group has claimed responsibility for these actions. We have no clues in this regard.

[Reporter] Have any suspects been arrested?

[Fernandez] Several people were arrested in the capital, especially near the sites of the explosions.

[Reporter] Any links with the Democratic Revolutionary Party or any other .

[Fernandez, interrupting] We will not involve anyone yet and much less political groups, because no one has claimed responsibility for these actions. We will not blame anyone.

[Reporter] Did the bomb that did not explode at the airport [words indistinct]?

[Fernandez] We do not know if it was a homemade bomb or a grenade. We have not received this information because explosive experts are deactivating it right now.

[Reporter] What are the characteristics of the bombs that exploded here?

[Fernandez] We do not have that information yet for the same reason—we have to wait for the experts to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Dear listeners: This was National Police Director Fernandez, who has made statements about what happened and the action the National Police are taking throughout the country to activate security organizations and prevent chaos at a time when the government is getting ready, through the Electoral Tribunal, to carry out a referendum.

Fernandez said these are actions by individuals who oppose democracy in our country.

Endara Orders 'Vigilance'

PA1909044392 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0407 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Panama City, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara issued orders on 18 September to all state security organizations to "double" vigilance in the country after a series of attacks that shook the Panamanian capital and Tocumen International Airport on the evening of 18 September.

Three explosions injured two persons and caused damage that the authorities have yet to assess. A fourth device did not explode, according to the police.

The explosions occurred at the airport, where a second bomb was located before it exploded, at the Foreign Ministry, and at the Electoral Tribunal.

Presidency Spokesman Rene Hernandez told ACAN-EFE that President Endara stated his "deep concern" over the surprise attacks on the Foreign Ministry, Electoral Tribunal, and Tocumen International Airport.

The head of state has issued orders "to increase vigilance and carry out thorough investigations to locate the culprits of these attacks against Panama's democratic system," Hernandez added.

So far no organization has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which occurred between 2030 and 2145 (0130 and 0245 GMT), although a radical anti-U.S. organization called "M-20" [20 December Movement] issued a communique announcing the beginning of "Operation Patriotic Hurricane," but failed to explain what it entailed.

The M-20 got its name from the date of the last U.S. invasion of Panama, carried out on 20 December 1989 to oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Its members are considered close allies of the former Panamanian leader, who is now serving a 40-year sentence in Miami for drug trafficking.

Group Claims Responsibility

PA1909051292 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 0457 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The Sovereign Panama Front [Frente Panama Soberana], an alleged subversive group the existence of which authorities doubt, called Radio Exitosa to claim responsibility for the bomb attacks.

'White Hand' Takes Credit

PA1909143292 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Sep 92 pp 1, 29

[Text] Two strong explosions were felt at 2100 [0200 GMT] on 18 September in the La Exposicion neighborhood, Bella Vista Corregimiento, spreading alarm and fear over a large area of the city. The first explosion took place at the Foreign Ministry building, and a few minutes later a second explosion was reported in the Electoral Tribunal Building across from Plaza Porras.

According to information gathered by the news media, a third explosion took place in one of Tocumen Airport's public restrooms, injuring two persons, one of them seriously. The injured persons were taken immediately to Santo Tomas Hospital for medical treatment. State security personnel cordoned off Tocumen Airport and the Plaza Porras area and began their investigations at once.

Before going to press, the LA CRITICA LIBRE news desk learned that authorities had arrested three suspects, but we could not obtain further details. Witnesses told investigators that four persons in a small car fired automatic weapons as they were leaving Plaza Porras.

In response to reporters' questions, National Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez said that "so far no local seditious group has claimed responsibility for the terrorist act." He said that he had ordered roadblocks on all the metropolitan area's major highways the minute he heard about the attacks. Electoral Tribunal President Eduardo Valdes was one of the institution's first officials on the scene. "Individuals who reject democracy and free elections are carrying out these attacks," he said as he inspected the serious damage to the building's facade.

At 2315 on 18 September, CRITICA LIBRE received a telephone call from someone who wanted it "known that the terrorist acts that took place in different areas of the city were the work of the White Hand Movement [Movimiento de la Mano Blanca]."

"We represent a new political movement that is aware of the need to eliminate Noriega supporters, communists, and the government of traitors that is subjugating the people." The caller added that this is the first warning, and in the future the group's ideological goals will be achieved.

At approximately 2300, panic set in at the Santo Tomas emergency ward when an unidentified caller demanded that everyone leave the area because a bomb was going to explode. As a preventive measure, the authorities moved the patients receiving emergency care to other wards. The doctors on duty that night and their colleagues remained in the hospital to continue working with devotion and great professional spirit.

Endara Confirms Arrest

PA1909215092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2021 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Panama City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara confirmed on 19 September that a former soldier of the defunct Panama Defense Force (FDP) has been arrested for being allegedly involved in the three bomb attacks that occurred the night of 18 September in Panama City.

On the night of 18 September national policemen arrested three persons allegedly involved in the incident at Belisario Plaza Porras where two of the three bombs exploded.

Endara said that those arrested included a former soldier of the FDP, which was led by overthrown General Manuel Antonio Noriega, but abstained from revealing his identity and rank because the security organizations have not concluded their investigations.

Presumed subversive groups exploded bombs at the Foreign Ministry, the Electoral Tribunal, and Tocumen International Airport, causing minor damage and injuring two civilians slightly.

The chief of state criticized the media for focusing on what he described as "three little bombs."

Endara called on the people to "be courageous and not let themselves be intimidated" because the perpetrators of the attacks seek to create a climate of "psychological pressure, fear, and terror."

Endara Comments on Constitutional Referendum

PA1909045292 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Sep 91 p 1A

[Article by Emilio Sinclair]

[Text] If the constitutional reforms are voted down during the 15 November referendum, the president will not summon a constituent assembly and the nation will continue to be governed by a Constitution drawn up by the previous regime.

President Endara was emphatic on 17 September during his weekly news conference when he said he would not summon a constituent assembly because he is not authorized to do so by law. He warned that if the citizens vote against the reforms, the next Legislative Assembly will be increased from 67 to 100 legislators, thereby creating excessive spending on this institution.

Panamanian citizens must vote on 15 November to decide if they approve or reject the constitutional reforms made by the Legislative Assembly.

The current Constitution was drawn up in 1972 and allows interference by the military in the nation's administrative matters. It also grants representation to many groups through the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives.

President Endara explained that the current Constitution does not establish the mechanism to summon a constituent assembly and that this could only be done if the people vote in favor of the reforms, which set out the elimination of military interference in the government.

To President Endara, the referendum is an excellent opportunity for Panamanians "to eliminate the Constitution of the military."

"I cannot summon a constituent assembly and I will not summon it," he said. He also stressed that there is not state institution that can summon a constituent assembly if the reforms are not approved by Panamanian voters.

The president said he has received a report on the situation in Colon that will be analyzed to determine what public works projects will be carried out with the $15.9 million earmarked for that province.

Endara publicly expressed his joy over the capture of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman, whom he labeled "the criminal leader who caused so much damage in Peru."

The president amended a previous statement and admitted that "in Panama there is poverty....there are people who go hungry."

The president was visibly annoyed when reporter Ciro Ortega, president of the National Journalists Association, read a protest against a statement issued on 16 September by Foreign Minister Julio Linares, who said the media should not interview foreign diplomats.

According to the president, Foreign Minister Linares' statement was only a suggestion, not law, so the reporters are not bound to obey it. "This is not a law limiting freedom of expression," Endara noted.

Legislator Interviewed

PA1909184592 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Interview with Legislator Dr. Edilberto Culiolis, member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party of Panama, by Orlando Matos in Cuba; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Matos] Today we have the pleasure of speaking with Panamanian Legislator Dr. Edilberto Culiolis of the Democratic Revolutionary Party. Welcome to Radio Havana.

[Culiolis] Thank you, Matos.

[Matos] First we would like you to tell us the purpose of your visit to Cuba.

[Culiolis] As a medical doctor, I am looking at Cuba's health programs, which could serve as an example for Latin America and the world. This visit is a follow-up to a visit we made in February of this year in the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Social Security and Labor. That meeting was attended by Latin American legislators, including some Panamanian representatives. We were impressed by Cuba's progress in the health field.

[Matos] Have you been able to accomplish the goals of your visit?

[Culiolis] The visit began this week. I am acquiring information on Cuba's achievements in the health sector and gaining experience.

[Matos] We do not want to let this opportunity go by without asking how you, as a legislator, view Panama's political situation now, three years after the U.S. invasion?

[Culiolis] We had been enduring a U.S.-imposed economic and commercial blockade since 1987. The U.S. invasion took place on 20 December 1989. There had been some cunning propaganda in Panama to the effect that the U.S. invasion would result in dollars pouring into Panama like raindrops from the sky, all the social and economic problems of the country would be resolved, and true democracy would reign. The Panamanian people were fooled by the picture that was painted, but now they are frustrated. Expectations have not been

met. On the contrary, international financial organizations have imposed measures on the Panamanian people, and their interests are being stepped on more and more. The situation in Panama is becoming increasingly delicate. There is growing unemployment. There is political persecution. The country does not have any kind of program for general development. Following the invasion, we are enduring the occupation of the U.S. empire.

The country's social and economic levels are going down. According to reports issued by the Panamanian Government itself, 48 percent of the people live in poverty, and of that 48 percent, 27 percent live in extreme poverty. That tells us that in Panama the situation is getting worse instead of better.

[Matos] We have been told that on 15 November there will be a referendum in Panama so the people can express their opinion on possible modifications to the Constitution. We would like to know if the referendum will be a result of popular demand for modifications to the Constitution.

[Culiolis] The purpose of the referendum is to change constitutional articles. It is not the product of a national agreement by the majority of Panamanians. As I said earlier, it is the product of pressure from international organizations and the work of persons who serve the interests of the Panamanian oligarchy, which is now in power, to have a firmer grasp on power at the expense of the Panamanian people.

From the very beginning the referendum on proposals to reform the Constitution never enjoyed the endorsement of the people. It has been predicted that the referendum will result in a big no to the reforms because they do not have the support of the people and are an attempt to change some articles of the Constitution. An attempt is being made to ban the Panamanian Army legally through a constitutional reform.

This is a delicate matter. It would lead to a Panamanian violation of an international agreement. As we all know, the Torrijos-Carter Treaties establish that Canal security must be a joint Panamanian-U.S. endeavor.

The referendum's main objective is to decide on the government's proposal to eliminate the Panamanian sector that has security responsibilities. If that force were eliminated, we would be violating the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and we would be led into accepting the U.S. presence in Panama past the last day of this century.

According to indicators, the Panamanian people will respond to this proposal with a big no in the 15 November referendum.

[Matos] We thank Dr. Culiolis for his statement to Radio Havana Cuba.

Canal Committee President on Reverted Areas

PA1909025992 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Sep 92 p 4A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] During the next three years, several Southern Command military installations, which are now controlled by U.S. authorities, will revert to Panama. As a result, the Panamanian economy will no longer receive $500 million, according to official sources at the Legislative Assembly.

Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement Legislator Alonso Fernandez, president of the Canal Affairs Legislative Committee, said that "neither the ministers of state nor the executive branch knows what to do with these areas. Consequently, they run the risk of deteriorating, just like the Panama Railroad."

During the present legislative period, the Assembly must approve a bill creating the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI). This agency will be responsible for planning and administering the canal areas that will gradually revert to Panama through 31 December 1999, in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Panamanian official sources have stated that the canal areas are valued at approximately $30 billion.

Fernandez made the statement after several legislators paid a visit to the U.S. Southern Command installations, where General George Joulwan briefed them on the reversion plans.

"From 1991 to 1995, 4,000 U.S. Army soldiers and 3,000 families will leave Panama. That is the sequence they established to carry out the reversion," Fernandez explained.

The legislator added that during that time, areas such as Albrook field, Clayton, Sherman, and some areas of Howard Air Force Base will revert to Panama.

The U.S. Southern Command maintains on the banks of the canal 9,000 soldiers and nine defense sites, which will have to be dismantled by 31 December 1999.

From 1992 to 1995, the Panamanian economy will no longer receive $500 million. "I do not know where Panama will get the money to maintain the areas that will revert. I think the same thing will happen that happened after the reversion of Fort Gulick in Colon, which has become a no-man's-land," he said.

Fernandez explained that as yet there are no budget allotments to pay for the expenses that will be incurred to maintain the areas that will revert in the future, so "I forecast a very difficult situation."

He said the executive and legislative branches should seek an alternative to resolve this problem.

Concerning the draft bill to create the ARI, Fernandez said that this bill would provide a solution to the situation we are facing, as long as other bills are passed to facilitate the privatization of some areas.

Fernandez claimed that not even the ministers of state know what to do with the lands that will revert to Panama in the next few years. "At all government levels, it is not known what will be done. We are behind schedule in this," he concluded.

Minister on Success of U.S. AID Program

PA1909145192 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Delia Cardenas, planning and economic policy minister, has stressed that the U.S. AID program in Panama is yielding positive results. Her statement is contrary to what U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton recently insinuated. Here is what Minister Cardenas said:

[Begin recording] [Cardenas] You need only visit Chorrillo to see the buildings that are going up; you need only go to the countryside to see the roads being constructed and the schools that have been refurbished and painted. In effect, you can see that the project is being successfully implemented. Things are being done quickly and are showing results.

[Unidentified reporter] Does that means the ambassador has not been well informed?

[Cardenas] I do not know, and I would appreciate it if you do not ask me what the ambassador has said. I have great respect for reporters, and I ask that they respect me. I do not want to have diplomatic problems. [end recording]

Argentina

Decision on Bids To Prospect Falklands Rejected

PY1909010792 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0011 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Sep (TELAM)—The Argentine Government today "rejected Great Britain's unilateral decision" to call for bids to prospect on the Malvinas' continental shelf.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry issued a brief communique reaffirming "Argentina's sovereign rights over the Malvinas, the South Georgias, the South Sandwich Islands, and the maritime area that surrounds said islands, as part of Argentina's national territory."

The communique concludes by stating: "The United Nations has repeatedly admitted that there is an ongoing sovereignty dispute over said territories."

The British decision that was announced today took local diplomatic circles "by surprise," because the conflict over the Malvinas Islands "is still unresolved and this should be taken into account by those who may want to prospect for oil," the sources said.

Following the resumption of diplomatic relations, Argentina and the United Kingdom held two meetings on the status of hydrocarbons around the Malvinas Islands. The second of these meetings took place in London on 14 July. At this meeting the deputy foreign ministers of the two countries studied the possibility of cooperating and prospecting jointly.

This meeting was held under the sovereignty umbrella that the Argentine and British Governments had agreed upon.

UK Move Will 'Have Its Cost'

PY1909212392 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2052 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Deputy Carlos Ruckauf, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, today warned that Great Britain's decision to begin prospecting for oil on the continental shelf of the Malvinas Islands "will have its cost for bilateral relations."

Ruckauf issued a statement rejecting the decision of the United Kingdom, and announced the the Foreign Relations Committee will hold an urgent meeting on 23 September to study the issue.

Government Source Rules Out Joining NATO

PY1809172392 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1153 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Sep (NA)—A high-ranking Government House source has disclosed that Argentina will not join NATO, but actually will seek the necessary mechanisms to achieve an "interaction" at a military level with the NATO member countries.

Thus, the source completely ruled out the possibility of Argentina "joining" NATO as an "active member," as Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Jorge Ferrer had said.

The source said: "Argentina will not join NATO but will seek interaction at the military level. This represents exchanging information and arranging techniques" vis-a-vis Argentina's possible participation in international military conflicts such as, for example, the Persian Gulf war.

The source indicated that on 28 September Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella will travel to Brussels, Belgium, to lecture at NATO headquarters on the Argentine Government's policy of rapprochement to that international organization.

It was also learned that yesterday, shortly after noon, President Carlos Menem met Foreign Minister Di Tella and Adm. Ferrer, who supplied the president and foreign minister a detailed report on the possibility of establishing mechanisms of interaction between the Argentine Armed Forces and the NATO member countries' armed forces.

It was learned from Government House sources that, during the meeting, Di Tella became familiar with this project in order to convey the Argentine Government's interest to NATO authorities during his trip to Brussels. [passage omitted]

South Africa, UK Roles Sought in Alliance

PY1809191492 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Sep 92 Section 1 p 5

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has not ruled out the participation of the United Kingdom and South Africa in an alliance of South Atlantic countries, which would be joined by Argentina, "to deal with common issues such as, for example, the pollution of the seas."

Di Tella also announced that there will not be any changes in the top position in the Argentine Embassy in Washington vis-a-vis the ruling party's possible defeat in the United States.

The foreign minister made these announcements during a news conference in which he gave details of the tour of the United States (New York and Washington) and Europe that he will begin on 18 September.

Corrientes Senator Calls For Menem Impeachment

PY1909024992 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2259 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Sep (NA)—Corrientes Liberal-Autonomist Pact Senator Jose Antonio Romero Feris today propounded the impeachment of President Carlos Menem, whom he accused of displaying "a growing tendency toward monopolizing power, an ongoing

encroaching upon the other branches of government, and a constant contempt for Congress."

The impeachment request, recently announced by Romero Feris himself, is part of a political campaign geared to rejecting the federal government's intervention in Corrientes Province. This intervention—which was recently extended to the province judiciary—has been endorsed by the Supreme Court.

Romero Feris submitted the impeachment request in writing to Alberto Pierri, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies. In his note Romero Feris stated that the president might be guilty of "a serious dereliction of duties" and in light of this he demanded that Menem be removed from office and be declared disqualified from holding "any office of honor."

The 26-page dossier submitted by Romero Feris is based on the views held by constitutionalists German Bidart Campos, Joaquin V. Gonzalez, and Rafael Bielsa.

Romero Feris pointed out: "There is no mistaking the fact that Argentine citizens accuse President Menem of displaying an increasing tendency toward concentrating power in his hands, a continuous encroachment on the other branches of government, and a constant contempt for Congress. This attitude puts the very essence of the system in jeopardy, and evinces a flagrant and systematic violation of the spirit and letter of the Constitution."

He went on to say that "it is high time that we make an all-out effort to uphold the Constitution—regardless of the implications or final results of our undertaking—sparing no pains to do so and putting aside partisan interests and unearned benefits."

Romero Feris said that "the struggle against corruption, which entails a fraudulent distortion of the system, requires that we go ahead with the impeachment so as to ensure the honesty that society is demanding and protect the essence of our Constitution."

Romero Feris harshly criticized the enactment of several decrees issued by the executive in lieu of the usual procedure of bills passed by Congress. He added: "This amounts to condoning the president's usurping of the power of Congress, a power which according to the Constitution is vested in the legislative branch."

"The fundamental trait of a constitutional state is that it is based on a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government, whereby the power of the ruling branch is limited and controlled by the other branches, and therefore the freedom and basic rights of individuals are protected," he added.

Romero Feris affirmed that "the supercilious attitude shown by the president in frequently issuing decrees, on the basis that they are both necessary and urgent, is fraught with danger because in exercising powers which are beyond his competence the president is encroaching upon the power of another branch of government."

He noted that Menem "is currently holding an all-time record as far as signing decrees is concerned, as he has issued a greater number of necessary and urgent decrees than in the period between Urquiza [Argentine president from 1854 to 1860] and Alfonsin."

Romero Feris warned Congress of "the great risk of society's being subjected to the uncertainty of not knowing whether their rights might be wiped out, with a stroke of the pen, by the will of one person." He conceded that "Congress must try to improve its standing in the community, but the president seems unable to understand that one cannot expedite things in Congress simply by resorting to threats or urgent needs."

He said that "now is the time to set limits on this mania of the pen before it is too late. Congress must resume its functions and fully exercise its powers."

Commenting on the federal government's intervention in Corrientes Province judiciary by means of Decree No. 1447, Romero Feris pointed out that "the violation of the Constitution was so flagrant that the various bar associations aired their dissent by condemning this measure."

In conclusion, Romero Feris criticized Menem's stance in the removal of the prosecutor for administrative matters and of members of the National Accounting Office, and in the appointment of the attorney general.

Menem Spurns Bid

PY2009221592 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Sep 92 p 11

[Text] Bahia Blanca (NA-DYN/CAP)—President Carlos Menem yesterday presided over the inauguration of the new industrial effluents treatment plant built by the oil company Isaura on their premises near this city.

In a brief speech Menem urged industrialists to adopt eco-friendly systems in their companies in order to appease environmental groups "which reject any kind of industry in their fanatic defence of ecology."

After pointing out that in his opinion "industry and ecology are not incompatible," the head of state warned his government would be "inflexible" with companies which do not comply with environmental regulations.

Later in the day, during a meeting of FENTOS waterworks employees union in Posadas, Misiones, Menem shrugged off the impeachment request submitted to Congress by Corrientes Senator Antonio Romero Feris.

"They can make one or a thousand requests (for my impeachment)," said Menem, but the government "will not deviate one inch from its policy of transformation."

Menem also rejected charges of totalitarianism against his government, saying that the opposition leaders who were voicing such accusations "are the same people who did not let me choose or be chosen in 1963," in reference

to the national elections in which the Justicialist Party was banned and victory went to Radical candidate Arturo Illia.

In Bahia Blanca Menem was accompanied by Environment Secretary Maria Julia Alsogaray, Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, Bahia Blanca Mayor Jaime Linares and Isaura owner Jose Elicabe, whom the president praised as "a businessman who works efficiently for the greatness of the country and should be taken as an example" by his colleagues.

During the visit Elicabe and his guests toured the treatment plant, which cost some 3.5 million dollars.

Menem later said Isaura's decision "to place the company at the service of the community" was a progressive move which will lead the way to achieving the protection of nature without endangering productivity.

During brief statements to the press after the ceremony, Menem considered that the current economic crisis in Europe might benefit Argentina because "there are enormous possibilities for foreign companies to bring their factories to our country. [no end quotation marks as published]

The president provided the example of Benetton, "which recently bought 40,000 hectares in Patagonia."

Borders Watched To Prevent Shining Path Entry

PY1809163292 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Warning—The president of the Republic, Dr. Carlos Menem, has said that the border posts in northern Argentina are alert to prevent the possible entry of members of the Peruvian terrorist organization Shining Path.

Brazil

Knowledge of Arms Sales to Serbia Denied

PY1909140892 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Sep 92 p 17

[Text] Brasilia—The Foreign Ministry denies it is aware of any Brazilian arms sales to Serbia. Itamaraty advisers do not rule out, however, the possibility of a triangular operation violating the embargo decreed by a UN Security Council resolution.

In a triangular operation, an arms shipment can be sold to another country and then go on to Serbia.

According to Itamaraty, the department that handles arms deals and imports does not have any records of arms sales to the Serbian Government by Brazilian enterprises or information in this regard.

Moreover, advisers to Foreign Minister Celso Lafer reported that Itamaraty does not have the means to control clandestine deals conducted by Brazilian enterprises.

In addition to observing the UN resolution banning arms sales to Serbia, the Brazilian Government has sent troops to join the peacekeeping forces. The Army Ministry also is unaware of any arms sales to the Serbians.

Collor 'Spewed Forth More Abuse' at Dinner

PY1909032092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Sep 92 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—On 16 September President Fernando Collor had a fit of anger in front of a group of progovernment deputies who had gathered for dinner at the residence of Deputy Onaireves Moura (PTB-PR) [Brazilian Labor Party-Parana State]. In his fit of anger the president did not spare expletives and insults directed at those who are advocating impeachment. He offended Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro by calling him a "scoundrel," and used expletives to describe dissident deputies and the news media. He also verbally attached Deputy Roseana Sarney, the daughter of former President Sarney, saying among other things that she and her former husband Jorge Murad "got wealthy through corruption." He labeled Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes "sclerotic." Sixty [figure as published] congressmen, five ministers, Federal Savings Bank Chairman Alvaro Mendoca, and Bank of Brazil Chairman Lafayette Coutinho Torres were present at the dinner.

While complaining about the procedure established for the impeachment, and voicing his outrage at the establishment of a congressional committee to investigate the granting of public funds to congressmen in exchange for their support, Collor did not spare Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro, whom he called a "scoundrel, coupist, and crook."

Collor said: "He always took advantage of public funds, and now he wants to accuse the deputies of doing it."

The president talked about the dissidents of progovernment parties who are supporting the impeachment.

"I am not afraid of those spineless wimps," he said.

While Bank of Brazil President Lafayette Coutinho Torres was passing around a package of some 30 telegrams in which Ulysses pleaded with the Bank of Brazil, the president launched his attack:

"He is the senile, sclerotic puppet whom Sao Paulo economic oligopolies have designated as the advocate of civil disobedience for the decision of the highest court. He is causing an institutional crisis. Dr. Ulysses should stop asking the Bank of Brazil for favors."

Collor also took advantage of the opportunity to attack Paraiba State Senator Humberto Lucena, Brazilian Democratic Movement Party bloc leader in the Senate,

by accusing him of political chicanery. The president went so far as to compare Lucena to "Justo Verissimo," a character epitomizing political patronage created by comedian Chico Anysio.

Collor showed that he was deeply irritated by the fact that former President Sarney and his daughter Roseana are among the organizers of the movement in favor of Collor's impeachment, and that they are lending their support to Vice President Itamar Franco.

"This impeachment muse and her former husband (Jorge Murad) will not withstand an investigation by the Treasury. They got wealthy through corruption. These people close to Sarney are the real thieves, the gang," he said.

The president also vented his anger at the news media. According to the congressmen who were present, Collor spewed forth more abuse:

"Unfortunately I am under attack from this crappy press. I will make them take all this garbage back through their mouths, and through other bodily orifices as well," Collor said.

Speaking about the impeachment vote, he trice yelled the slogan: "It will not go through," which was loudly echoed by the progovernment deputies.

Sarney Reacts To 'Language'

PY1909014392 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Former President Jose Sarney has issued a communique regarding criticisms by President Fernando Collor.

The communique reads: So far I have not commented on the president of the Republic out of respect for the post which I occupied. The president of our country is, however, as I unfortunately warned the country, incompetent and lacks the demeanor and the ability to exercise the Presidency of the country.

The language he uses is frightening because it reflects an irresponsible attitude which should never come from a president of the Republic.

It is impossible and incredible that he should ignore the force of the peoples' uprising and condemnation.

The communique ends by stating: Mr. Collor de Mello will not figure in history due to the shameful behavior that has stained his public life.

This evening in Sao Luiz, former President Jose Sarney again commented on President Collor's criticism.

[Begin Sarney recording] President Collor is desperate and has no right to criticize anybody. Fernando Collor will not figure in Brazilian history due to the shameful way in which he has fulfilled the presidency of the republic. Three years ago I warned that he did not have the necessary emotional stability to exercise the presidency of the republic. The developments are confirming my fears. [end recording]

Congressmen Respond to Speech

PY1809195292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Congressmen have reacted to the speech by President Fernando Collor during a dinner in Brasilia on 16 September. During this morning's eighth congressional session. congressmen used the rostrum to reply to Collor's speech. The presence of 51 deputies again ensured a quorum at today's session of the Chamber of Deputies. There remain only two sessions at which President Collor can defend himself.

All the deputies who spoke from the rostrum during the session today protested over a speech Collor delivered during a dinner this week. The Sarney family defended itself from the rostrum. Deputies Jose and Roseana Sarney read notes responding to the president. [passage omitted]

Former President Jose Sarney, who currently is not in Brasilia, sent a message with his response to Collor. Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, who also was mentioned by Collor in his speech at the dinner, held a news conference to defend himself.

[Begin Guimaraes recording] The nation knows that the president is unstable, but this country is not a madhouse. This country wants order, safety, and democracy. The verbal abuse of the president of the Republic, through his statements and his attitude, cannot contaminate the legislative branch. [end recording]

[Begin Deputy Roberto Jefferson recording] The opposition has been disrespecting the Constitution for the past 120 days. They are disrespecting and attacking the president, they are violating the law, they are attacking the Federal Supreme Court, and they are preaching hatred and urging students to demonstrate on the streets. Unfortunately he who sows hatred, harvests hatred. Now they want to pretend they are the good guys. [end recording]

Governor Breaks With Collor

PY1909173492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Maranhao Governor Edison Lobao decided to break with the government after President Fernando Collor's criticism of Senator Jose Sarney.

[Begin Lobao recording] As Maranhao governor, I cannot accept the president of the Republic's insults against former President Jose Sarney. To insult Jose Sarney is tantamount to insulting the conscience of all Maranhao residents. [end recording]

Franco 'Does Not Believe' Collor Statement

PY1909022192 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Vice President Itamar Franco has also reacted to President Fernando Collor's criticisms.

Franco issued a communique stating that he does not believe the president said that the vice president would not assume the Presidency in the case of an impeachment.

Itamar Franco's communique ends by saying that the president is not above the laws and the Constitution.

Not 'Destabilizing' President

PY1909172692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The vice president of the Republic, Itamar Franco, today reasserted that he does not believe President Fernando Collor said Franco would not assume [the Presidency] if the impeachment is confirmed by Congress.

According to Itamar Franco, the president is not above the law:

[Begin recording] The vice president is not destabilizing the president of the Republic. The vice president is not participating in the impeachment process entrusted to the Chamber of Deputies.

Nevertheless, I repeat, the federal Constitution is there to be observed. [end recording]

Argentine Links Farias to Drug Trafficking

PY1909130492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Federal Police are studying the possibility of starting investigations into charges that Paulo Cesar Farias is involved in drug trafficking.

Argentine citizen Luis Mario Nunez even described some of the routes used to smuggle drugs into Brazil.

According to the routes described by Luis Mario Nunez, aircraft took off from Arapiraca, Alagoas, transporting ether and acetone to Santo Antonio do Ica, Amazon. From there the shipment was taken by river to Tabatinga and from there to Leticia, Colombia.

Four trips were made from Arapiraca to Paraguay and Bolivia, where the ether and acetone were swapped for cocaine. Nunez assured Federal Police agents that 800 kg of cocaine entered Brazil through this route.

Federal Police have spent the last five days comparing the information disclosed by Luis Mario Nunez with the data available at the Drug Control Precincts. The preliminary conclusion is that at least some of the story makes sense. Investigations, however, need to be broadened.

Following Federal Police orders, all police groups are involved in the technical examination of the information disclosed by Nunez. The purpose is to do things cautiously in order not to jeopardize other investigations involving Paulo Cesar Farias.

For this purpose, Federal Police, with the support of the prosecutors involved in the investigation, may request a special inquest to investigate drug trafficking involving Paulo Cesar Farias, his partner Jorge Bandeira de Melo, and his brother Luis Romero Farias.

Paulo Cesar Farias has denied any link with drug trafficking. He has said he does not know the Argentine citizen Luis Mario Nunez and that he has asked Federal Police to start an investigation into the information disclosed by Nunez to a magazine.

Paulo Cesar Farias stated during a Sao Paulo news conference that he would like to meet Nunez face to face.

In referring to his involvement with drug trafficking, Paulo Cesar Farias said:

That interview is the most shameful and hideous thing I have ever seen. I never have seen Mr. Nunez in any part of the world.

In commenting on the charges made by Pedro Collor, Farias said:

I hate nobody, nor have any ill feelings for anyone. I believe that by now he must have a guilty conscience for so much nonsense, foolishness, carelessness.

Regarding the closure of his airline company, he said:

The aircraft were returned precisely because, in view of all this, there were no more deals, no more clients, nobody wanted to travel with our company.

Statements Termed 'Very Serious'

PY1909190092

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 18 September carries on page 4 a 180-word unattributed article entitled "Investigations Began in June." The article states that Federal Police General Director Amaury Galdino termed Luis Mario Nunez' statements very serious and ordered a special team of police officers and agents to conduct a priority investigation. It notes that the Federal Police have been investigating Paulo Cesar Farias' involvement with drug trafficking since June. It states that Brasil-Jet, Farias' air taxi company, may be involved in the "laundering" of narcodollars.

A separate 320-word unattributed article on page 4 of the same paper entitled "Gold Prospector Reveals Connection" notes that gold prospector Augusto Morbach Neto, who was arrested in Sao Paulo in November, was the first person to accuse Farias of being involved in drug trafficking. Morbach Neto stated that Farias made various trips in his plane, brought dollars, and was linked to Fabio Monteiro, the former adviser of Claudio Vieira, who was President Collor's former private secretary. During his questioning, Morbach Neto voiced his suspicion of Farias being involved in drug trafficking. Morbach Neto said: "Farias has influence with the government and the facilities to use illegal money." Federal Police say the information supplied by Nunes will help prove whether Farias and his assistants are involved in the sale and even the production of cocaine.

Coutinho Dismissed for Political Use of Funds

PY1909020892 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Lafayette Coutinho, chairman of the Bank of Brazil Foundation, has been dismissed from his post by court order.

Paulo Outeiro, a retired Bank of Brazil employee, has already replaced Coutinho.

The foundation finances charity programs and organizations.

According to Federal Deputy Augusto Carvalho, the foundation was being used for political purposes, by distributing its funds to deputies who support the government.

Former Chairman Lafayette Coutinho has still not been notified. Presidential Spokesman Etelvado Dias announced that Lafayette Coutinho will appeal the decision.

Ruling Annulled

PY2009030692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The trusteeship ordered by the court for the Bank of Brazil Foundation lasted exactly 24 hours. Appellate Judge Luis Claudio de Almeida Abreu, president of the Federal District Court, has annulled the lower court ruling on the injunction which the curators of the Bank of Brazil Foundation had requested, claiming that the funds of the foundation were being improperly used for political purposes.

The Bank of Brazil appealed the injunction in its capacity as the institutor of the foundation. Judge de Almeida Abreu based his decision on two items: He questioned the juristiction of the state prosecutor to appoint the trustee, and argued that the appointment of a trustee could seriously jeopardize the management of the affairs of the foundation. The judge concluded that in view of these considerations it would be better and more prudent to suspend the trusteeship until the merits of the said trusteeship can be duly evaluated.

Bank of Brazil Chairman Lafayette Coutinho will be reinstated as chairman of the Bank of Brazil Foundation on 21 September, as will be the two foundation directors who were also ousted on the orders of Judge Gilberto de Oliveira of the 10th Federal District Civil Court.

[Begin Coutinho recording] I am very happy to see justice prevail over the political demonstration staged yesterday. I have been reinstalled as chairman of the Bank of Brazil Foundation, as was bound to happen. [end recording]

Report on Sao Paulo Rally for Impeachment

PY1909120892 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The rally in Anhangabau Valley has gathered the leaders of the movement in favor of President Fernando Collor's impeachment. Among them are four state governors and the mayors of several capitals.

A luncheon at Bandeirantes Palace served as gathering point for governors, political leaders, businessmen, and union leaders who were going to participate in the rally in favor of Collor's impeachment.

During a news conference, politicians of various parties forgot their differences to talk about the importance of the street rallies at this moment.

[Begin recording] [Paraiba Governor Ronaldo Cunha Lima] This demonstration has a direct influence on Congress, which will again show that it represents the people.

[Ceara Governor Ciro Gomes] I believe that without a constant, alert, active, orderly, peaceful, but brave demonstration of the people we run the risk of being deceived.

[Sao Paulo Mayor Luiza Erundina] They are being compelled to endorse the peoples' judgment; the Brazilian people already have voted in favor of Collor's impeachment. [end recording]

Shortly after 1700 the political leadership arrived in Anhangabau Valley, which already was crowded. Everyone was aware they were participating in one of the largest political demonstrations in Sao Paulo's history.

[Begin Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho recording] I believe this demonstration is playing the political role we all expect it to play. It is a great demonstration of Sao Paulo's desire for an impeachment. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Fiuza Treatens To Resign, Obtains More Funds

PY1809234792 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Sep 92 p 3

[Article by correspondent Sergio Leo]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—With the argument that he does not have anything to offer the pro-government congressmen before the impeachment voting session in Congress, and also by threatening to resign, Ricardo Fiuza, Social Action Minister and government political coordinator, obtained 400 billion cruzeiros for his ministry from Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira. Half of this money is expected to be spent this year.

Funds from the Social Welfare Ministry, despite its financial difficulties in paying the 147 percent readjustment it owes to the retired workers, will be transferred to the Social Action Ministry, which is one of the government agencies that supplies funds for works that meet the interests of the deputies. This transference of funds must be published in the official gazette this week, along with the explanations for doing so, as delivered by ministers Fiuza and Reinhold Stephanes, minister of social welfare to President Fernando Collor.

This alternative was found after a tense meeting between Fiuza and Marcilio at noon on 15 September in the Economy Ministry. Fiuza told Marcilio that the LBA [Brazilian Welfare Legion] and the CBIA [expansion unknown], which are social assistance organizations of this ministry, were about to collapse due to lack of funds, and that besides this his ministry needed an authorization to make new expenses beyond its budget. The Social Action Ministry needed authorization to obtain new funds beyond its budget in order to meet the great demands of the congressmen, Fiuza told Marcilio. Marcilio was unmoved, and claimed he did not have money for new expenses. Fiuza was upset, so he stood up and as he bid farewell to the economy minister he promised to resign, because without money he could not work. With the intervention of some advisers, Marcilio gave in. The ministers then called Social Welfare Minister Reinhold Stephanes, who agreed to give Fiuza part of his funds from the Finsocial [Social Investment Fund]. [passage omitted]

Committee Created To Control Release of Funds

PY1809234992 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Sep 92 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—The Chamber of Deputies will tomorrow install an external committee to control the liberation of funds by the executive branch. This move seeks to prevent funds being exchanged for votes against the impeachment request. The coordinator of the committee will be Deputy Waldir Pires (PDT-BA) [Democratic Workers' Party - Bahia], who called for the creation of this committee. Pires will today go to the National Accounting Office (TCU) to draft the joint project with the two organizations. Pires said that the main goals of the committee will be to watch the Federal Savings Bank [CEF] and the Bank of Brazil [BB], headed by Alvaro Mendonca and Lafaiete Torres, respectively.

"If funds are released, the most we can do is to identify the allocations that meet the interests of the deputies. If a misuse of funds is verified, Congress may react in a more effective manner, it may even impeach the deputy involved," Pires said.

Pires will define the sphere of activities of the committee on 18 September when the term for the parties to nominate their representatives in the commission expires. Considering the parties that favor impeachment, the opposition will hold a majority with 10 votes (four from the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], two from the PDT, one from the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], one from the PT [Workers' Party], one from the PL [Liberal Party], and one from the PDC [Christian Democratic Party], against seven in favor of the government (four from the government bloc, one from the PDS [Social Democratic Party], one from the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], and one from the PTR [Labor Renewal Party]).

The correlation of forces is essential to define the actions to be taken within the committee. Waldir Pires expects to act on two fronts: To establish investigations with the help of the TCU, and to send the committee members to carry out a field work in the executive branch, especially at the CEF and the BB. Pires will go today to the TCU to speak with its president Carlos Atila. He will ask for special inspections to detect abuses of funds.

Despite Pires' insistence in identifying the misuse of funds and punishing those guilty of such actions, Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro considers the committee to be a preventive body to control the release of funds and thus prevent their being used to meet the interests of the deputies.

"I hope the committee will carry out preventive actions that will save us from punishing people later," Ibsen said.

Collor Uses Veto To Sign Salary Equity Bill

PY1809233692 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] President Collor has used his veto on the salary equity bill that has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies. The law grants a 20 percent across-the-board increase to all public servants and establishes new salary scales for executive branch servants.

The president vetoed an article creating a special scale for administrative experts in the area of education. The original text of the bill has been maintained. It establishes three scales; a rating and position scale called PCC [Plano de Classificacao e Cargos], a special careers scale, and a teaching scale.

Federal civil and military public servants will collect today or next Monday [21 September], through a supplementary payroll, the 20 percent adjustment and another 30 percent of the first installment of an executive branch bonus. This payment is part of the salary equity bill approved on 15 September by the Chamber of Deputies and sanctioned yesterday by President Fernando Collor.

The salary adjustment must be paid to public servants by next Monday at the latest. This information was supplied by Federal Administration Secretary Luiz Antonio Ciocchi.

Ciocchi said that public servants will collect, through a supplementary payroll, a 20 percent across-the-board increase and 30 percent of the first installment of the executive branch bonus.

He also reported that during the process to approve the salary equity bill an agreement was reached with congressmen involving other measures that will be implemented by the end of the year.

The first of these measure involves the establishment of a single scale for public servants as of January 1993. This proposal must be submitted to Congress by November.

The second measure involves making some concessions through a special law. These concessions include, for example, the establishment of a 40 percent bonus for full-time health professionals and the re-establishment of a 160 percent bonus for personnel working in research work like the Inmetro [National Institute of Metrology, Standardization, and Internal Quality], the INPI [National Institute of Industrial Property], the Capes [Council for Advanced Professional Training], and the Fundacentro [National Foundation Center for Job Safety, Hygiene and Medicine].

* Collor's Behavior in Mid, Late August Eyed

* Alters Routine Habits

92SM0605A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese
26 Aug 92 pp 26-27

[Text] President Fernando Collor began Sunday, 16 August, hiding behind the Brazilian flag. After going for a jog with judoists Rogerio Sampaio and Aurelio Miguel, he spent the day shielded by five Military Police barriers. The barricade prevented the protests from approaching Casa da Dinda, which is now in its bunker [preceding word in English throughout text] phase—"bunker" being a military term used to refer to a reinforced, bomb-proof shelter. Only residents who could prove that they lived in the neighborhood, or visitors dressed in green-and-yellow, were allowed to pass. Not even a pedestrian got through if he was wearing black. Collor is doing his best to give the impression that everything is going fine in the bunker. He does not always succeed, because he is isolated, has no one to talk frankly to, does not discuss anything serious with his allies, and, all the while, plays the role of a confident president.

Normally, it takes presidential spokesman Etevaldo Dias 30 minutes to drive from his home to Casa da Dinda. On Black Sunday, when Brasilia mobilized in a caravan of protest, it took Etevaldo an hour and a half to make the same trip. The spokesman entered the bunker at Dinda and expressed his amazement at the size of the demonstration. The master reacted calmly. "What is all this, Etevaldo? I thought it was going to be much worse. Weren't the people in cars? So, they were not the common people." Another visitor that same day was Roberto Marinho, president of Organizacoes Globo, whom Collor had invited the day before. After lunch in Angra dos Reis, Roberto Marinho had taken off for Brasilia, landed at the air base, and continued to Dinda by helicopter. It was the president's fourth meeting with the journalist and businessman since Pedro Collor touched off the crisis. Collor's obvious intention at the lunches was to court the owner of Globo TV Network in order to get more lenient treatment on the nightly news. During the meeting in the bunker, the president showed Roberto Marinho the English roses that decorated the garden. They drank soft drinks and talked, with Beethoven playing in the background. There were no other guests. Rosane Malta Collor only greeted the visitor and left him alone with the president. They talked about the crisis. Collor, once again, put on a show of being unworried. "I am confident, I am going to demonstrate that I am right," the president said.

"Just Like Death"

Collor has stopped reading books by Norberto Bobbio from his liberal-socialist phase that preceded the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] and is now devoting himself to the Bible. Something else he is reading is the book "A Cabala da Inveja" by Rabbi Nilton Bonder, who also wrote the best-seller "A Cabala do Dinheiro." "Envy is a deep-seated feeling. It is just like death," Collor told an adviser who expressed interest in the work. The president once had a passion for writing little notes that then-spokesman Pedro Luiz Rodrigues would distribute to the press. He also used to go through the clippings [preceding word in English]—the selections of press items prepared by Radiobras [Brazilian Radio Broadcasting Company, Inc.]—and then mark, with his Montblanc pen, any complaints that were published and urge his ministers to do something about them. Now, when the main topic in the press is his status in office, he has stopped reading newspapers at breakfast. He has also stopped making notations on the clippings and demanding action.

His friends admit that he sometimes seems out of touch with reality—so much so that after committing some senseless acts, he persists in believing he acted correctly. After his disastrous green-and-yellow demagoguery had transformed itself into a festival of black, Collor was reprimanded by ministers who, months ago, were begging him for a job. "If I were in your position, I would

not have done that," Ricardo Fiuza, social action minister, told him on Tuesday during a meeting with other PFL [Liberal Front Party] ministers and legislators. Collor attempted to justify himself using the same peculiar excuse, repeated to several others with whom he talked during the week—he claimed he had done it all on purpose to prevent the opposition from having more time to get organized and hold even larger protest demonstrations. Those present concealed their incredulity but wrung from Collor a promise to avoid further impromptu attacks. The president's allies are afraid that, in his isolation, the president will do more stupid things.

On His Knees

The wave of black gave the administration an incurable hangover. Collor was lucky enough to spend that Monday in Bolivia and not have to return to the fellowship of his aides until the next day, at the 0900 meeting. "The atmosphere was heavy," said one person who was present. "Everyone was a little depressed." Dejected, and even more monosyllabic than usual, the behavior of [Economy] Minister Marcilio [Marques Moreira] attracted the president's attention. "How easily people let themselves get discouraged," Collor commented to an aide, referring to the minister's melancholy appearance. "A few critics pipe up and they lose heart," he added. That same day, Senator Hugo Napoleao (PFL-Piaui) went to Planalto Palace for an audience. They talked about the crisis, and Collor tried to reassure the visitor. "The CPI is just a minor thing," he said. "The institutions are the important thing."

Last Wednesday, the president received Deputy Jose Lourenco, now the administration's deputy leader in the Chamber. Lourenco gained a reputation as a specialist in presidential mandates when, during the Constituent Assembly, he became one of the pillars of special-interest politics who guaranteed Jose Sarney a five-year term. Collor, who was the first PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] governor to break with Sarney and to advocate a four-year term, wanted to find out how Jose Lourenco could help him avoid disaster now. This is how the dialogue went:

- "The impeachment will not pass," Lourenco said. "What was really hard was to push through the vote for five years for Sarney."
- "You think that was harder?" Collor asked. "It was, Mr. President."
- "And how did you do it?"
- "I had to go from house to house visiting legislators. Dionisio Hage, a deputy from Para and a proper colleague, did not want to vote for the five-year term. I went to his house, got down on my knees and begged him, and he ended up voting for it."

Collor liked the kneeling strategy. Marooned in the bunker, he is approving the most humiliating suggestions.

*** Tense in TV Interview**

92SM0605B Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese
2 Sep 92 p 25

[Text] Tense and at times bug-eyed, President Fernando Collor invaded Argentine homes on the evening of Tuesday, 25 August, via images broadcast by Telefe. Collor was interviewed for 27 minutes on the program *Tiempo Nuevo 92*. The conversation with journalist Bernardo Neustadt, who was in the studios in Buenos Aires, was picked up by the satellite dish at RBS TV in Rio Grande do Sul. Judging by the president's performance, Xuxa is in no danger of losing her status as the most admired Brazilian personality in tango country. Speaking a "portunhol" [a mixture of Portuguese and Spanish] that would make ex-President Jose Sarney blush, Collor summed up the situation in Brazil by repeating, almost pathetically, *"es normal, es normal."*

When the presidential image went out over the air, it became clear that Indiana [Jones] was not having one of his best days. And to think that this is the same man who had become known in the press for having mastered the secrets of mass communication as few others have. It is true that technical problems contributed to exacerbate the damage. To start with, Collor was in position for the interview but had not been told he could be seen on the air. Result: The president was seen yawning three times and snorting four more times, besides staring fixedly into the camera. During the questions and answers, Collor snorted four more times. Nervous despite not having been provoked by any particularly penetrating question, the president scowled so that anyone who had never seen him would have thought him an amateur on TV.

The president's tenseness was not only betrayed by his facial expressions, but by the laconic way he answered some of the questions. At times he could not maintain a line of reasoning or would abruptly broke off his comments. In one of the most painful moments, he even forgot a quote from his grandfather that he intended to recall to illustrate a response. At the end, Collor was still on video, but some technical problem made him think he was already off the air. That was when, irritated, the president asked spokesman Etevaldo Dias: "How many minutes? I think he is already signed off. I think he is signed off. But he did not even let me say good night! Do not ask me to do any more interviews like this one, Etevaldo." Soon after, normality was reestablished, and the president was able to say his *buenas noches*.

The president's tension has been confirmed by those who talk with him most frequently, one of whom is Vera Lucia Moreira Alves, 30, a clairvoyant who maintains a paranormal kind of conversation and understands what is going through the president's mind. Although she has not seen Collor for some time, she knows that something is not right with her former client. "Every night, when I pull his chain, I sense that he is very difficult," she said. By "pulling the chain" the seer means that she visualizes the president and says prayers to try to get a picture in her mind's eye as to what is going on with the head of

state. "When I do that, I see the president as if he were on television, and I can feel what he is thinking. He is nervous," she explained. But despite the black clouds hanging over Planalto Palace and Casa da Dinda, Vera Lucia assures us that Collor will serve out his term to the end. She has not been able to convey that optimistic message directly to Collor. "They have already tapped my telephone calls with Paulo Cesar (Farias), so since then I have preferred to talk with him through an intermediary, and always in code."

Despite admitting that she is consulted frequently by several members of the Alagoan court, including Governor Geraldo Bulhoes and First Lady Denilma, Vera Lucia swears she had nothing to do with the green and yellow candles that have been burning in perpetual shifts at Casa da Dinda. "A green or yellow candle is an *umbanda* sign and I do not recommend that," she said. The most she will do is suggest to clients in difficulty that they avoid black clothing because "it blocks the light." Although she is not the source of the candle idea, she speculated: "Maybe it was Rosa, a sensitive who works for Rosane, or maybe Cecilia de Arapiraca." The First Lady has not been ordering predictions from Vera Lucia since the latter predicted problems with the LBA [Brazilian Assistance League]. "I said the institution would be robbed right under her nose, and she didn't like that," said Vera Lucia, with a faint smile of derision. At least Rosane escapes the somber predictions of the clairvoyant. The same cannot be said of Pedro Collor, author of the first charges against brother Fernando and PC [Farias]: "You will see that he will have health problems soon. It will not take long."

* Bill on Federal Intelligence Center Viewed

92SM0594A Sao Paulo VISAO in Portuguese
12 Aug 92 p 14

[Article by Santamaria Silveira and Jo Ristow: "Return of the Spooks"]

[Text] President Fernando Collor is firmly disposed to break one of his campaign promises: to abolish the SNI [National Service for Intelligence] with all its "spooks" [arapongas]. Right after he took office, Collor restructured the Office of President of the Republic, abolishing the old SNI and creating in its place the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs (SAE). In practice, however, the so-called "intelligence community" did not disappear. It continued to be attached to the SAE, and, in the opinion of both Planalto Palace and some prominent members of the opposition forces, it was the "spooks" of the extinct SNI who, using their files, nourished some of the charges of irregularities in the government. One visible part of this gear is said to be former Deputy and Army Colonel Sebastiao Curio (Reserve), who kept recordings of phone calls and checks and recently submitted them to the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] on PC [PC Farias] in order to implicate businessman Paulo Cesar Farias in influence-peddling and President Collor in election crimes.

This is supposedly the reason, according to assessments in military and political circles, why Collor appears to interested in recreating the SNI and restoring the former prestige of the "spooks." So much so that on the eve of the convening of a special session of Congress, the president sent it a legislative proposal creating a Federal Intelligence Center, with 2,110 permanent positions, to coordinate, plan, and carry out the federal government's civilian intelligence activities; safeguard state secrets; and carry out basic and advanced personnel training in the area of intelligence.

Collor is so interested in seeing this bill approved that last week, during the ceremony commemorating the 46th anniversary of the Armed Forces General Staff, Chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency Ambassador Marcos Coimbra revealed that the administration even had a strategy for winning the support of the deputies and senators: including a representative of the legislative branch on the council of the center. This would be a two-way operation: It would break down the resistance from the more Leftist sectors, which applauded the abolition of the old SNI, and make the new "spooks" more visible by including a member of Congress on the council.

What Changes

Under the proposal sent to Congress, the Federal Intelligence Center would absorb the SAE's Intelligence Department and its Human Resources Basic and Advanced Training Center, the "school for spooks." Its basic structure would consist of a Superior Council, which would be composed of the minister of justice, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and the secretary of strategic affairs. It would also have a Presidency and an Intelligence Directorate. It is precisely on the Superior Council where Collor intends, according to Ambassador Coimbra, to include a representative of the legislative branch "to lend greater openess to its activities."

The 2,110 permanent positions would be filled by public competition or by requisitioning people from other federal government agencies. But the plan has some controversial aspects, such as the authorization for the executive branch to transfer to the center the ownership or use of federal government real estate "as necessary to the performance and progress of its activities." It also allows the administration to make whatever budgetary shifts it feels are necessary to set up the center, which, in practice, means the Congress would be giving the president a signed blank check. "No issue that represents greater concentration of power in the hands of the current administration, like this proposal that recreates the SNI, has the least chance of being approved," declared Rio Grande do Sul Senator Jose Fogaca (PMDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]. He acknowledges that in a democratic country, the state needs to have an information agency, but he believes that the question should not be considered until there is a new government. Fogaca recalls that when charges of corruption were made against former Minister of Social Security Antonio

Rogerio Magri, the chief of the military household of the presidency, General Agenor Homem de Carvalho, remarked that if the SNI had not been abolished, things like that would not have happened. The PMDB senator agrees with the general: "If we still had the SNI, a lot of those cases would have been cut off at the root. The crooks realized that there was no system for controlling them," he said.

But another PMDB figure, Ronan Tito, from Minas Gerais, does not subscribe to that theory. "You cannot govern without information, but we cannot create an agency to cook up intrigues and spread gossip or pursue people politically," he declares. Speaking even more critically, Rio de Janeiro Deputy Jair Bolsonaro (PDC) [Christian Democratic Party], a captain in the reserves, sees in the creation of the new SNI yet another haven for political appointees. "They are going to create 2,110 positions, while the SAE today has only 250 staffers," he complained.

Meanwhile, the director of the Strategic Studies Unit at Unicamp (State University of Campinas), Reserve Colonel Geraldo Lesbat Cavagnari Filho thinks it was a big mistake for the Collor administration to have abolished the SNI. He said all that needs to be done is to restructure the agency and demilitarize it. He also pointed out some flaws in the plan: "It does not provide any form of control over the activities of the center, control that should be exercised by the Congress. Neither the minister of foreign affairs, who would naturally be a user of the Center, nor the secretary of science and technology, who heads another area that should be fed information from that service, are included on the Superior Council. Cavagnari argues that the Congress should even control the training programs and the personnel roster of the center "so that it does not turn out to be an old scheme in new clothes. Or worse: so it does not become a political police force."

Colombia

Police Claim Escobar Behind Plainclothes Murders

PA1909020892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] The Medellin Police reported on the morning of 18 September that drug trafficker Pablo Escobar has unleashed a new criminal wave against plainclothes policemen. Four plainclothesmen have been killed in Medellin in the past 72 hours.

According to Metropolitan Police Chief Colonel Daniel Peralta, Medellin Cartel chief Pablo Escobar ordered the killing of policemen in civilian clothes. According to the police information, Escobar is retaliating against members of the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations [Dijin], who conduct intelligence work in civilian clothes. According to the police, since it is difficult to identify Dijin members, cartel members are murdering any policeman who walks the streets in civilian clothes.

[Begin Peralta recording] Medellin Cartel members are retaliating against our plainclothesmen because it is believed they are informers or are looking for information leading to the capture of Pablo Escobar. [end recording]

Dijin photographer Julio Jose Pedraza and policeman Alexander Bocanegra were murdered on 15 September, policeman Carlos Alberto Quintero was killed on 16 September, and policeman Leonardo Archica was murdered on the evening of 17 September.

Two years ago, when the killing of policemen began, more than 200 were murdered. The life of a policeman was worth 1 million pesos at that time. Today they are being killed for 10,000 pesos.

'Faceless' Judge, Bodyguards Killed in Medellin

PA1809222092 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by Orlando Caday]

[Text] We have a sad report for the people of Colombia: Sixth District Court Judge Miriam Rocio Velez Perez died at 0827 this morning at Conquistadores Hospital, where she had been taken as an emergency victim of a criminal attack that occurred while she was traveling from her home in Mallorca neighborhood to her court office in La Pujar sector in Medellin.

Her two bodyguards, two Administrative Department of Security [DAS] agents, also died.

The attack took place on 2d Street and 65th Road near the old Enrique Olaya Herrera Airport in west Medellin, close to Campos de Paz Cemetery.

The judge and her two escorts were shot to death. The escorts died at the scene of the attack.

According to Mallorca Neighborhood witnesses who telephoned the Radio Caracol office in Medellin, the attackers were traveling in a white Toyota.

As a result of this criminal attack, Judge Miriam Rocio Velez Perez and two DAS agents protecting her have died.

Death Linked to Upcoming Ruling

PA1909025792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by Javier Dario Restrepo]

[Text] Authorities have linked the killing of Judge Miriam Rocio Velez de Lopez to the upcoming ruling on the murder of journalist Guillermo Cano.

The killing of Judge Miriam Rocio Velez is another bloody episode of the process that began on 17 December 1986 when journalist Guillermo Cano was murdered in Santa Fe de Bogota. Since that day the following incidents have taken place: In June 1987, Judge Eduardo Triana charged Pablo Escobar and 15 other people for Cano's death. The judge was forced to leave the country. In August 1988, Judge Consuelo Sanchez summoned Pablo Escobar and three members of the Prisco clan to trial. The judge traveled abroad after receiving death threats. In August 1989, Magistrate Carlos Valencia confirmed the summoning of Pablo Escobar and Evaristo Porras. He was later killed. In March 1989, journalist and lawyer Hector Giraldo was murdered.

The judge who was murdered on the morning of 18 September was protected by bodyguards and her identity had been kept a secret. The murderers, however, were able to locate her. This incident raises serious questions regarding the institution of faceless judges.

[Begin recording] [Restrepo] Why does this institution fail?

[Criminal Lawyer Gustavo Salazar] It does not fail because of human error, but because of logistics. There is too much bureaucracy and chaos in this justice system.

[Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez] It is a special mechanism to face special circumstances such as the high crime rate.

[Salazar] I am going to quote the words of Dr. Marta Luz Hurtado, who is currently the chief of the Regional Prosecutor's Office in Antioquia when she recently said that nearly all litigant lawyers in Medellin know the identities and addresses of the faceless judges.

[Gonzalez] These are the mechanisms contributing to the solution of problems in this area and we have to continue using them. Society and the government have to avoid these type of attacks on the justice system and the country. [end recording]

Defense Minister Comments

PA2009185392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Defense Minister Rafael Pardo is in Medellin. He addressed several important issues for Antioquia Department. On the murder of faceless judge Miriam Rocio Velez Perez, the minister said the government is willing to provide greater security for these officials. Justice, government security agencies, and government representatives will meet on 21 September to evaluate and reinforce the existing systems.

[Begin Pardo recording] The issue of kidnapping deserves national awareness, stronger laws, heavier penalties, and more extensive investigative methods. We believe the action taken to create the law is very positive. [end recording]

Pardo admitted that the police searches in Envigado on 18 September yielded nothing. He added that despite the continuous deaths of policemen and Administrative Department of Security agents, the Defense Ministry has no information indicating a revival of violence against these organizations.

* Electrical Sector Expansion, Debt Discussed

92SM0602A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Aug 92 pp 1-2B

[Report by Jaime Mejia Mazuera]

[Text] With the Colombian electrical sector perhaps at its nadir, the government has committed itself to an ambitious expansion plan aimed at meeting the country's energy needs between 1997 and the year 2002.

Consequently, before beginning any project, the sector will have to undergo a costly and complex surgery to treat the many ills that have been gradually killing the solvency of electrical companies: indebtedness, mismanagement, excessive labor costs, and plummeting earnings.

Without drastic changes, the plan is practically impossible. According to studies conducted by the National Energy Finance Company (FEN), the companies will have no surpluses in the next 10 years to invest in projects; they will not even be able to cover their current debts.

This financial plight has been growing worse over the last three years. But the coup de grace came this year; energy rationing means that the companies will be billing for far fewer kilowatts.

Red Ink in Electrical Sector

Total debt	US $4.941 billion
Public sector debt to electrification projects	49.45 billion pesos
Private sector debt	45 billion pesos
Electrification projects' debts to ICEL and Corelca	127 billion pesos
Total deficit, counting income and expenditures	246 billion pesos*
Reduced income because of power outage	100 billion pesos*

Source: Ministry of Mines and Energy, National Department of Planning

* Estimate

Official estimates indicate that the 33 companies in the national electrical sector will earn 100 billion to 150 billion pesos less p73 this year.

This situation, coupled with the income difficulties of the National Coffee Fund, explains the public sector budget deficit, which will reach 1 percent of the GDP this year.

The total shortfall (that is, the inability to cover all expenses) of the electrical sector in 1992 will be 246 billion pesos, or 0.7 percent of the GDP.

The government had initially projected a gap of 34 billion pesos, but the companies' reduced earnings and the 90 billion pesos needed to speed up the interconnection with Venezuela, complete the El Guavio and Riogrande projects, pay the generating ships, and repair the thermal power plants, changed the preliminary calculations.

Crises

The first great crisis was related to the internal and external debts. As of 31 December of last year, total obligations amounted to $4.941 billion, of which 55 percent was external credit and the rest internal.

Experts say that this heavy financial burden, which until just a year ago was explained away as the "excess installed capacity of the sector," is not healthy for the development of the companies. For every peso they have in shares, they must support a debt of 45 centavos, and the interest payments always exceed their income.

Thus, this year the companies will show a deficit of $1.038 billion because of interest payments they owe.

In some companies, the situation is so critical that not even by selling all their shares and putting together all the income they will generate in their useful life will they be able to pay off their debt. In other words, they are completely insolvent.

This brutal reality is faced by the Betania Hydroelectric Plant (CHB) and the Colombian Electrical Power Institute (ICEL). Betania has accumulated debts amounting to $633 million, of which more than $200 million is overdue. The ICEL, which includes 15 small regional electrification projects, has a debt burden of $650 million.

The situation is less critical at the Electric Corporation of the Atlantic Coast (Corelca), but the savings it will be able to generate between now and the year 2000 will almost be matched by its debt payments.

This means that it will not have a single peso left over to invest in new projects. The FEN estimates that only after 1997 will the company have a few surplus funds, and that will not even be enough to replace its equipment. Corelca's accumulated debt p73 is $458 million.

And the reasons for the crisis? Besides administrative inefficiency and rates that do not reflect the real cost of generating power, there is another salient factor: Many of the major projects were started without money. This defect will be corrected by imposing restrictions on new programs. Thus, for example, the responsible company must show savings equivalent to 40 percent of the total cost. In this way, the company will not be strangled by debt.

The government has already decided on the features of the first bailout, which will involve assuming the credit obligations of the three most heavily indebted companies (ICEL, Corelca, and Betania), amounting to $1.1 billion.

This mechanism frees the companies of debt, but it transfers the problem to the central government. By taking on the debts of the electrical sector and those of Colombian Coal, Inc. (Carbocol), which was relieved of a $500-million debt burden, it will increase its interest payments by 63 percent in 1993.

Suffice it to say that the government's deficit will grow by 200 percent, from 129 billion to 433 billion pesos in 1993. The total deficit of the public sector will not be greater than this year's, because the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) will come to the rescue with a surplus of 359 billion pesos.

Overdue Bills

Not only do the power companies owe huge sums of money, however; they are not collecting their own bills, either. It is estimated that they have problem accounts totaling more than 94 billion pesos.

Of that total, government agencies account for 49.45 billion pesos in debts, or 52 percent, while the private sector owes the remaining 48 percent.

But they owe their parent companies (ICEL and Corelca) power and interest payments of 127 billion pesos, equivalent to 70 percent of these companies' income this year.

What we have here is a chain of unpaid debts: The customer does not pay the regional electrification project, the project defaults on its debt to the company that sells it power, and that company, in turn, is unable to pay the debt with which it financed costly power projects.

The government has decided to take over these bad accounts for the companies and finance their debt by buying the power they distribute in their regions on the best terms: 20- and 30-year terms, with interest rates of 5 and 10 percent.

To make matters worse, income from selling power never covers the p73 cost of producing it, and the companies lose about 20 percent of what they generate due to technical defects and theft.

In the first case, the electrification projects must subsidize low-income households by selling power below cost. It is estimated that they receive only 76 percent of the actual value of the rate.

[Box, p 2B]

Premises of Plan

The plan to expand the electrical sector involves implementing a number of procedures that will enable the

sector to carry out a $2.6-billion program. The country's future energy supply depends on that program.

The first step is capitalization. The government will have to assume the debts of Corelca, ICEL, and Betania, which amount to $1.1 billion, so that these companies can restore their credit ratings and develop new power projects.

This process will take place throughout the year, and it is something the government can do with relative ease. The other measures that form the foundation of the expansion plan are a little more uncertain.

The first is a rate adjustment. The plan calls for the near elimination of the subsidy for providing power to low-income households by 1995. The companies are to collect 87 percent of what it costs them to generate every kilowatt of power, compared to just 76 percent today.

For this purpose, funds will be allocated from the budget so that these companies can receive direct transfers from the central government to subsidize weak markets consisting of low-income consumers. This year, the transfer will total 13.2 billion pesos. Will the transfers actually be carried out?

Another measure is designed to reduce the losses suffered by the sector due to the theft of power by unscrupulous customers. This is another objective that cannot be achieved by decree.

And another major premise of the plan is that the private sector will make investments of approximately $500 million over the next 10 years, accounting for 20 percent of the development program.

Ecuador

Minister Comments on OPEC Withdrawal Decision

PA1809193492 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Andres Barreiro stated that Ecuador, which is about to withdraw from OPEC, should be able to decide on its own about its oil pumping program. Minister Barreiro added that Ecuador would remain an OPEC member until the organization holds its semiannual conference scheduled to take place in November.

Barreiro, who departed Geneva after having participated in an OPEC strategy conference, was questioned about the accuracy of information concerning Ecuador continuing as full OPEC member until November, to which he answered the information was correct.

Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen stated on 17 September, that Ecuador had decided to withdraw from OPEC. However, President Duran-Ballen did not specify when the withdrawal would take place.

According to Minister Barreiro: We have announced our decision to withdraw as well as our reasons for making such a decision. The other OPEC ministers requested that Ecuador try to maintain some kind of link with the organization such as becoming an associate member.

The energy and mines minister also indicated that the other OPEC members requested that Ecuador reconsider several alternatives between now and the November conference. However Barreiro pointed out: Our position is clear. We want to be free to increase our production and to do that we need some other type of link.

During the OPEC meeting in Geneva, Barreiro also stated to the press that Ecuador, with sufficient investments, could duplicate its production levels currently amounting to 300,000 barrels per day, and use the remaining revenues to find solutions to the country's severe financial difficulties.

Government Increases Control on Peruvian Border

PA2109021292 Paris AFP in Spanish 0115 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Quito, 20 Sep (AFP)—Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jose Gallardo confirmed on 20 September that he has reinforced control on the Peruvian border to prevent the entrance of Shining Path rebels and to stop the smuggling of fuel to Peru.

Gallardo visited El Oro Province on the coast on the border with Peru where he confirmed an operation has been implemented to turn back the Shining Path rebels following the recent capture of Abimael Guzman, leader of the Peruvian Maoist group.

Gallardo also announced that in the next few days there will be an interinstitutional meeting to adopt decisive measures to eradicate the smuggling of gasoline and cooking gas to Peru.

The almost 100 percent price difference that exists between the two countries has driven hundreds of people into the fuel-smuggling business.

The defense minister has declared the border control at the international bridge linking Huaquilla, Ecuador and Aguas Verdes, Peru, will be guarded by the Customs Military Police.

Union Leaders on Guayaquil Strike, Demonstration

PA1809162992 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by Mario Munoz]

[Text] We will now present a report on the workers' march here in Guayaquil. During the march, some labor leaders gave statements to the press. Let us listen:

[Begin recording] [Labor leader Cesar Quintero Aguirre] [workers chanting "Sixto you lied, and screwed the people up!"] Comrades, we have to [word indistinct] the

nationwide strike. On 23 September, [workers chant slogans calling for nationwide strike] on 23 September, by the actions of workers, peoples sectors, and the leftist political parties, we have the commitment to [words indistinct] this province. The United Workers Front [FUT] is going to bring this country to a halt.

We have to demonstrate to this government that we will not allow them to starve us to death. We will not allow the government to take us deeper into poverty. Comrades, the only way to stop these bloodthirsty leeches is through the actions of each and everyone of you. This is why we ask you, comrades, to maintain the fight so we can stop those who want to take away our jobs, like in the case of municipality workers. We have to [words indistinct] these comrades. Workers must be respected.

[Unidentified reporter] These were the statements by high-ranking labor leader Cesar Quintero Aguirre. Now, let us listen to other labor organizations leader.

[Unidentified speaker, broadcast in progress] ...and always police, who a few minutes ago, tried to stop this impressive protest by the Ecuadoran people. Today, we have demonstrated that neither the military nor the police will stop the protest of the Ecuadoran people against this government [words indistinct]. [applause]

[Reporter] Let us listen to labor leader Dr. Moran.

[Moran] Additionally, [words indistinct] the struggle of [words indistinct] will be in the streets, comrades. Thank you.

[Reporter] What are your comments for Sistema de Emisoras Atalaya after this long protest march? What results do you expect?

[Unidentified labor leader] Workers, basically, are demanding that some urgent measures be adopted. For instance, there is no special treatment for any product or [words indistinct] official prices. There are no special water, electricity, and telephone rates for the poor. A gas tank is selling for 4,000 or 5,000 sucres. A water tank, which cost 400 or 500 sucres, is now selling for 1,800 sucres. The transportation rates [words indistinct]. The workers and the population are demanding that measures be adopted so that things do not become worse. This protest demonstration cannot be stopped by a handful of policemen or soldiers. [end recording]

It should be pointed out that due to the workers' march, activities in downtown Guayaquil are completely paralyzed. Businesses decided to close down because of the recent days of anxiety in Guayaquil.

Workers March Ends With One Dead, One Injured

PA1809223192 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] A protest march organized by the FUT [Union Workers Front] and the public workers organization for 16 September resulted in one government worker dead, one woman seriously injured, and numerous damages to the National Legislative building.

Marco Quevedo, a 60 year-old Finance Ministry employee, died from asphyxiation when riot squad police threw tear gas in an attempt to control the violence that broke out around the Legislative Palace at the same time that protesting workers were about to be received by members of Congress.

CEDOCUT [Ecuadoran Central Confederation of Classist Organizations for Worker's Unity] President Fausto Duran blamed Congress President Carlos Vallejo for the tragedy because of his indolence in the face of workers' demands to be received by Congress. Mr. Vallejos in turn blamed the police, who had thrown tear gas indiscriminately.

Vallejo explained that he had announced in due time that the workers would be received by Congress and had called on everyone to remain calm, reminding them that violence begets violence.

The death of Marcos Quevedo, whose remains lie in state at the National Funeral Parlor, has resulted in a call for Government Minister Roberto Dunn Barreiro to initiate an investigation into the incidents.

Minister on Strike, Possible Disturbances

PA1909172892 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] When interviewed by reporters with respect to the Armed Force's position on the announced workers strike and an eventual Indian uprising, Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo Roman replied that the Armed Forces would respond according to the circumstances. He also added that he expects no episodes of violence or vandalism to take place as those actions only impede the country's development.

Gen. Gallardo stated that these confrontational events are one reason why national development is continuously being blocked. Such events disrupt the harmony that is the most important social element in making progress in Ecuador.

Likewise, he called upon all parties involved to avoid any disturbances that could destroy the limited resources Ecuador currently has at its disposal. According to Gen. Gallardo, during crises everyone must cooperate in the country's development.

The defense minister affirmed that the Armed Forces would continue to cooperate with the national police in carrying out their scheduled operations to guarantee peace and security for all Ecuadoran citizens.

Gen. Gallardo stated: We will continue to carry out this task with the same enthusiasm and prudence exhibited thus far in order to prevent vandalism, destruction of public and private property, and to avoid any other risks.

Paraguay

Rodriguez on Oviedos, Anticorruption Fight

PY1809203492 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
18 Sep 92 pp 2, 3

[Unattributed interview with President Andres Rodriguez on 17 September in the city of Carapegua]

[Text] [HOY] What is General Lino Oviedo's current situation? There is a lot of talk in this respect. Could you clarify the situation for us?

[Rodriguez] There is absolutely nothing strange in this matter, if his Army commander (Humberto Garcete) signed it [Armed Forces Communique to the People] then.... Or do you want every officer to sign? He is subordinated to his Army commander.

[HOY] Was the note ratifying support really necessary, Mr. President?

[Rodriguez] Sincerely I do not know. The truth is that it was an initiative taken by all of them. In no way did I ask them to do so, because I am sure that up to today I am still the commander in chief. Of course it is my right to have them respect me and respond to me in a disciplined manner.

[HOY] What is the relationship between General Lino Cesar Oviedo and General Rodriguez? Is it good or bad?

[Rodriguez] Very good. He is an excellent officer like all of them. He is of a lower rank than the Army commander. Thus, he is not obliged to sign that document, because the commanders in chief of the three forces signed it. You saw that the Navy (Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Pettit), the Army ([Division General] Humberto Garcete), and the Air Force ([Brigadier General] Jose Cespedes Zarza) were represented by their respective commanders together with the chief of staff ([Division General] Eumelio Bernal), including some others who do not hold commands, such as the person who is here beside me, the chief of the Military Household ([Division General] Regis Anibal Romero) who also signed. Nothing else.

[HOY] Do you know of General Oviedo's activities with respect to the commission that he has created to fight corruption?

[Rodriguez] Look, the order comes from the commander in chief, but as we have the Cavalry and this question of marijuana plantations comes within its jurisdiction and all that, to whom would I entrust the task? I would not bring a unit from the Chaco and order it to pursue those who plant that cursed plant that is called marijuana. You must have seen, I do not know how many tons are ready to be burnt.

[HOY] Then it was you who ordered the fight against corruption?

[Rodriguez] It was an order handed down by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the nation and it did not only apply to him [Oviedo], but each one within his sphere of activity, like the commander of 2 Corps ([Division General] Marino Gonzalez), who has all this area under his responsibility. He must pursue and exterminate [exterminar] those who really want to live off the bad habit of planting the cursed plant.

Rodriguez said this on 17 September after visiting the Colorado Party Precinct in Carapegua, where the government dedicated a housing complex. The chief of state was accompanied by high-ranking military officers (with the exception of Lino Oviedo and Humberto Garcete) and ministers.

Oviedo Explains Stance on Corruption Crisis

PY1809223492 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish
2205 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with 1st Corps Commander General Lino Cesar Oviedo by Radio Nanduti Director Humberto Rubin—live]

[Excerpts] [Rubin] We are receiving at this moment a response to the call we made this morning to General Lino Cesar Oviedo. Good afternoon, general.

[Oviedo] Good afternoon, Mr. Rubin. I want to apologize for not being able to call earlier, as you deserve. I arrived at 1345 this afternoon from the zone of my responsibilities. We are also holding our military maneuvers. I also visited the Departments of Canindeyu, Cordillera, Concepcion, Alto Parana, and now I am here to answer your questions.

[Rubin] Well, in fact I have been calling you for a few days, but today I found General Garcete very nervous, so to speak, and really nervous when someone mentioned to him the changes you made, or you are about to make, in your area to fight corruption and smuggling. I really think that you should explain this situation to the media. I understand that it is difficult to ask this question of General Garcete, but what can you tell us about this situation?

[Oviedo] I will answer your question with pleasure, Humberto. First of all, I would like to say that changes in the commanders of border detachments, military posts, and forts within the zone of my responsibilities, that is, of the 1st Corps, are made regularly, every 90 days. [passage indistinct] Within the respective divisions, the different division commanders propose the necessary changes in the different detachments, military posts, or forts. Of course these changes are routine. Now there are times when the circumstances demand that these posts be strengthened. In this specific case, in Ciudad del Este, the citizens and the authorities requested that the Armed Forces strengthen their detachment there. This town is under the responsibility of the 1st Corps. We have increased the number of personnel in that detachment. We have also received written requests to strengthen the

police forces due to the existence in this town of robbers, car thieves, drug traffickers, murderers, and a number of undocumented people, and people who carry weapons, because there are very few people who are legally authorized to carry a weapon.

We have received similar requests from Hernandarias, and from La Paloma where Father Torrijo is working. We have made a special reinforcement there so as to regain internal security in that region. We also received letters from government officials in Pedro Juan Caballero and from Capitan Bado. This week we reinforced Capitan Bado with more officers, noncommissioned officers, a large number of soldiers, and a coordinated action within a given department. For example, Dinar [Nationai Narcotics Directorate] forces are visiting zones where there are marijuana plantations and where drugs are produced in laboratories. You have probably seen this in the newspapers, that hectares of marijuana plantations are being burned. We are also giving support to Dinar, without having usurped any power from any institution. In this specific drug enforcement task, Dinar heads the operation under the command of General Samaniego. We provide him with support troops for these operations.

Concerning the traffic in timber, which is known to all, we are interested in abolishing this practice of selling our national wealth and in abolishing the harm caused to the environment. To achieve this the operations are headed by the Forest Resources Department, which is subordinate to the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. [passage omitted]

In sum, this is what we are doing, Humberto, and in doing so we can make mistakes. I am open to receiving any suggestion or advice. If I did make a mistake, I am willing to accept it. I want people to tell me about these mistakes because I, too, am human, as any other. No one is exempted from making mistakes. But I have not made any specific change of personnel without the knowledge of my superiors. I have neither been meddling in the affairs of other institutions nor, much less, been organizing a parallel command. This is absolutely absurd, Humberto. I am willing to answer any question you might like to ask, because I know that your station is heard throughout the country. [passage omitted]

Concerning the alleged support for Colonel Gonzalez Rojas, I can add very little or nothing to that. I would like to give a brief explanation of this situation, because I know citizens have no obligation to learn about the organization of the Armed Forces, but they do have the right to find out. [passage omitted]

General Garcete is the direct commander of the Army and is responsible for the corps commanders. As it is not my responsibility, I am not aware of this matter except for that which I read in the newspapers. The situation is quite different in my zone of responsibility. But if you ask me why I did not take action against a colonel, a captain, or a lieutenant, I will answer with pleasure. It is very difficult to say that I will not adopt measures against those who are corrupt. I want to reaffirm—and I am here to be judged by all people—that I will not respect any order from anyone when I am ordered to carry out actions that might discredit the Armed Forces, either to traffic in timber or in stolen cars, or to get involved in drug trafficking or in marijuana plantations. I will not hesitate 30 seconds to punish those who are under my command and are involved in such illegal actions. Any man has the right to defend his honor. This is not the faculty of any specific individual in the world. It is a personal faculty, and it cannot be purchased with any wealth in the world. The honorable attitude must be demonstrated day and night. This is my position, and you can say it through all the microphones throughout the country and abroad, Humberto. I also want the citizens to see that I fulfill my promises, and to review my background. This would be a great favor to me. [passage omitted]

[Rubin] You said that you would not respect anyone because of rank. Does this mean that if you must stop and confiscate smuggled items, or arrest an officer of higher rank or with more seniority than you, you would do so?

[Oviedo] I will do so as many times as necessary. I will not allow any abnormal situation within my zone of responsibility, regardless of the rank of the individual who orders it. There are only two officers above me, General Humberto Garcete and the commander in chief, but I do not believe that they would do so, first because they know me very well, and second because I do not recall any situation when they ordered me to do things of that nature, Humberto.

[Rubin] Why did someone say to ULTIMA HORA something we already discussed in length this morning, that your signature was not seen on the military commanders' statement ratifying full loyalty to the commander in chief? It was said that neither you nor Generals Balbuena or Marino Gonzalez had to sign it, because General Garcete already signed it as commander of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Corps. I do not know why Lino Oviedo did not sign it, General Regis Anibal Romero said this morning at Government Palace. Can you explain this?

[Oviedo] Of course, and with pleasure, Humberto. I will give you a brief explanation of the military organization. [passage omitted]

When General Garcete signed it, he had thus already signed it on behalf of all other generals. I was aware of that. Before issuing the communique he called me to ask whether we were in agreement with the note. He called me over the telephone, and I answered that I fully agreed with the note. If I am not in agreement with the commander in chief or with the Army commander I will not hesitate to sign my retirement, because I am a humble man, and I can humbly retire in my hometown to live happily and with satisfaction, and with my head held

high. I will do that, but I will never defame my name, my friends, or my post. For this reason only the immediate commanders of the three branches of the Armed Forces signed it, in addition to those who are directly under the commander in chief, that is the chief of general staff, the War School commander, the logistics command chief, and the presidential aide-de-camp. [passage omitted]

Humberto, in honor of our friendship and of the citizenship in general, let me tell you this. Not only will I be supporting a Colonel Gonzalez Rojas, I will support any individual who fights corruption and who seeks to inform the citizenship truthfully to clean this country. If there are 10,000 people, I will support those 10,000 people.

Now, if the judicial branch manages to identify those who are guilty, well, that would be a good thing. But I will always support the truth. Today I told [journalist] Victor Benitez: I want to congratulate you because I know you have many enemies, but the cowards will never be remembered in history. At one time they sent you to jail, and you personally appeared in prison to serve your sentence. This means courage, and the cowards will never be recalled in history. You reporters have the same stance. When we act in food faith, conscientiously, and with good intentions, complying with our mission, come what may, we must show a firm position. We must have a principle, a stance, and sound and sincere ideals for the benefit of our citizens, of our country where we were born and grew up. We have the moral obligation to repay it with our good actions, so that we may all live in an environment of respect, and no more with the exploitation of man by man. The French Revolution ended many years ago. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Reaffirms Decision To Clear Corruption

PY1909034692 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0035 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Communique issued by General Andres Rodriguez in his role as commander in chief of the Armed Forces in Asuncion on 18 September]

[Text] In view of the biased rumors that are circulating, and which apparently seek to put into doubt the decision made by this command to investigate and punish all faults or crimes, in compliance with the essential principles of military ethics and moral standards on which the honor and dignity of the Armed Forces are based, this command reaffirms its firm decision to carry on, through the appropriate channels, the investigations intended to clarify the truth about all events that may represent a violation of the set of laws that comprise the country's legal order, and to enforce the punishments imposed by the regular or military court justices. This command seeks only to avoid corruption, indiscipline, and disobedience in the military institution.

The commitments assumed by this command through the military proclamations issued on 3 February 1989, endorsed with the blood of our soldiers in that noble action, are fully in effect.

Asuncion, 18 September 1992.
General Andres Rodriguez, commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the nation.

Peru

Decree Allows Criminals To Be Tried in Absentia

PA1909015992 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2355 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by Carlos Alvarado]

[Text] The jurisdictional branches, that is, the judicial branch and special military courts have been empowered to try in absentia individuals found to be responsible for crimes of terrorism and treason against the fatherland. Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers, explained the scope of a decree-law published on 18 September in the official newspaper EL PERUANO.

He said a list of terrorist activists and their followers, who will be extradited, will be revealed in 10 days. De la Puente added that 60 individuals are currently on the list, but the list will be adjusted to prevent ambiguities [homonimias] and errors in the extradition requests.

[Begin De la Puente recording] It was published on 18 September after it was analyzed by all the channels that were mentioned. This decree-law fills a legal void and will allow us to improve extradition possibilities. It will also allow us to assign the corresponding sanctions to those seeking protection abroad under certain procedures pertaining to human rights or to argue the lack of an extradition treaty to avoid returning to the country to face justice.

Extradition means an individual in the United Kingdom will return to Peru to face justice. The Government of the United Kingdom might not approve our extradition request or they could resort to juridical schemes or a thousand other procedures that characterize the judicial roguery [picaresca] preventing someone from facing justice in Peru.

That will not prevent or weaken the ability of the Peruvian Government, through its judicial authorities, to sanction those who deserve sentences. This framework was missing previously. Decree-Law 25,728 will deal with the trial of the crimes of terrorism and treason against the fatherland as specified in [words indistinct] and others—due to the nature and serious damage these crimes inflict on the country—empowering the corresponding jurisdictional organizations to condemn in absentia those who are found to be responsible for committing these crimes.

Thus, under this decree-law the courts may hand down sentences for terrorist criminals in absentia and even charge them with treason against the fatherland. I think sincerely this juridical framework will allow authorities to expedite judicial processes to ensure those individuals will no longer be able to operate. [end recording]

De la Puente, who also serves as foreign minister, said he disagrees with the idea of breaking relations with countries that welcome Shining Path members and added he trusts this problem will be settled through diplomatic channels.

'Terrorism and Treason' Included

PA1909134492 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] As of 19 September jurisdictional organizations throughout the entire country may condemn in absentia those found to be responsible for crimes of terrorism and treason against the fatherland that are specified in the current antisubversion legislation.

The measure was adopted due to the nature of the crimes and the serious damage they inflict on the country. It was published on 18 September in the official newspaper as Decree-Law 25,728 and signed by President Alberto Fujimori and the entire cabinet. Article 2 of that decree-law states that any provision contradicting this law will be abolished, modified, or suspended [queda en suspenso].

Supreme Court President Luis Serpa Segura said at 1400 on 18 September that he did not yet know about the provision:

[Begin recording] [Serpa] It is very easy to take action and hide behind something later; I am talking mainly about escaping. I do not know the content of the decree-law.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]"

[Serpa] I would have to analyze that. [end recording]

Angel Romero, president of the Magistrates Association of Peru, voiced his reservations about the application of this special law:

[Begin Romero recording] It could be that a specific person is condemned, and that person might invoke this constitutional principle later and nothing will have been accomplished. It is very important to apply a legal policy that is within the constitutional framework to avert problems [contraindicaciones] from coming up later on that could give us a poor image abroad. [end recording]

Andres Aramburu Menchacha, dean of the Lima Bar Association, voiced a similar opinion:

[Begin Aramburu recording] This provision is part of the government's offensive against Shining Path members and their accomplices. However, I do not think it is a wise measure. I do not think it will have any effect. What effect can a sentence against a person who is abroad and outside the reach of Peruvian authorities have? In my opinion, the correct measure against these people would be to try them here for the charges that can be filed against them and formally request their extradition.

We are already noticing that countries are willing to turn them over. However, if we request their extradition after issuing sentences in absentia, other countries will probably consider it political persecution and will deny their extradition. [end recording]

Fujimori Vows To Secure Peace by End of Term

PA2009043492 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has continued to meet with shantytown residents. On 19 September, he visited sectors in Cantogrande, inaugurated electricity projects, and visited schools. The president told the people he will continue to make reforms to the administration of justice to end corruption. He reiterated peace will be secured for the country before the end of his term.

President Alberto Fujimori, accompanied by Engineer Jaime Yoshiyama and Agriculture Minister Absalon Vasquez, visited the 5 November and Horacio Ceballos shantytown dwellings. He also visited the Children's Hospital in Cantogrande where he inaugurated electricity projects and inspected construction projects for educational centers. Moments before the inauguration, he announced that he will continue to make reforms to the administration of justice and affirmed that peace will be secured for the country before the end of his term.

[Begin Fujimori recording] All of this would be for nothing, if that same vitality did not permit us to fight terrorism. Here in these communities, which, I repeat, have been neglected for many years and could have been the cultural medium for the terrorist groups, there is also that new attitude, that resistance against that plight. You are the principal protagonists, by facing up to those groups that seek to sow hate and death. It is not only the state's struggle against terrorism. It is a struggle with the assistance of the people. For the joy of the children and the poor, peace will be secured for Peru before I leave the Government Palace. [applause] [end recording]

In Las Flores and Paradero Cuatro housing sectors, the president promised the residents to begin construction of an occupational educational center encompassing 1,200 sq meters. A group of youths of the New Majority movement, headed by Engineer Yoshiyama, availed themselves of the opportunity to collect signatures in exchange for ballpoint pens.

Fujimori Talks on Economic Policy, Budget

PA1909044792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2315 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report on President Fujimori's speech at the closing of the Confederation of Chambers of Commerce, Confecamaras, at the Crillon Hotel in Lima on 18 September]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori in his speech on 18 September at the closing ceremony of the Fifth Forum organized by the Confederation of Chambers of Commerce, Confecamaras, at the Crillon Hotel made important observations on economic matters, contraband, and the administration of pension funds. Here are parts of his speech:

[Begin Fujimori recording, broadcast in progress]...my economic program for next year. Needless to say, one of the main objectives of the plan is promoting greater utilization of the productive capacity of enterprises, as well as accelerating the decentralization process, with which I fully agree.

This new program should also be coherent, and should mean the continuation of efforts to guarantee stability, reinvestment, and the program of compensation and social development. We are open-minded. We are receptive to proposals for adjustments in the 1993 economic plan, and particularly to proposals from Confecamaras.

We will publish in due time for its broad discussion, the draft bills for the nation's general budget and finances. As usual, those laws must be based on the principle of fiscal balance. Expenditures and income must go hand in hand. We will not accept expenditures that are not backed by income. You all know this is the right thing to do and we cannot be exposed to temptations.

We [word indistinct] revenues representing 10 percent of the GNP. We realize this is insufficient to cover the many social needs, but there is no way of reasonably changing this situation. As in the past, we will not force the situation to endanger a process on which Peru's future depends.

As I said, we will publish the draft bills so economic groups may send us their valuable recommendations. I hope we can all show our generosity and good faith, avoiding political hobbyhorses. Naturally, if the latter occurs, I will have no other choice, as in other cases, of informing the people of the situation.

Dialogue on matters of national interest must be free from selfish interests, which seem to reveal themselves when the publication of a draft bill sparks debates. Draft bills are not laws, they are published for discussion and recommendations. [end recording]

The National Emergency and Reconstruction Government will soon publish a second draft bill on the administration of pension funds, AFP, with technical proposals to encourage a new debate. We will intensify the struggle against contraband and will send those found guilty of this crime to jail, President Fujimori stressed in his speech.

[Begin Fujimori recording, broadcast in progress]...this is the case of the draft bill for the AFP. There has been too much passion and politicalization on this subject, which requires above all, technical recommendations. Only technical recommendations will show real desire to defend the beneficiaries. In this case, we cannot defend the state, or the Peruvian Institute of Social Security [IPSS], labor leaders, or businessmen; we must defend the beneficiaries. Let no one try to take advantage of them by pretending to be their defenders. If we are really defending the beneficiaries' interests, and we do not have other interests in mind, let us not [word indistinct] or say half-truths to confuse others. We will publish the AFP bill again including the technical suggestions so a new debate may take place. I am quite convinced the IPSS can no longer be a monopoly. The IPSS needs competition so beneficiaries may choose from different alternatives. I think this is the most appropriate thing for them. No one must be afraid of honest competition.

You all know my government wants a smaller but more efficient state to fulfill its goals. One of these goals is to prevent tax evasion and I must say here contraband is still one of Peru's most critical problems because corruption prevails at certain supervisory levels, compounded by the criminal actions of those who import for illegal purposes. This is a problem we will face with determination. We know, for example, the current legislation does not include penal sanctions for this crime. My government is now studying a modification to punish contraband—not only with confiscation, but also with prison sentences.

The recovery of our economy depends on many factors. One of them—perhaps the most important one—is the achievement of peace in the country. This is something I have said more than once and you know it very well. An unsafe country is a country where no one makes investments and local investments decrease. Our country's worst enemy, terrorism, has criminally sabotaged the reconstruction efforts exerted by the Peruvian people, precisely to preclude our national development. My government has embarked on an antiterrorist strategy, with patience and perseverance and under the fire of certain people's criticism. What a mistake we would have made if, giving in to the pressure exerted by the verbal terrorism of certain groups, we had changed or modified the strategy.

We are not about to give in to pressure concerning the peace issue, or any other issue, to protect the interests of a group or to follow the misguided statements of pseudo-specialists who exploit the problem. The peace issue is a serious issue, and it represents one of my government's midterm goals. Although the war against terrorism has not abated, the arrests of terrorists prove an antiterrorist strategy works when it is coherent and constant—we have sought coherence in the efficiency of the Armed

Forces and the National Police and in the citizenry's participation in the task of achieving peace in the country.

Wars are won by armies and people, united in the defense of their national values. An indiscriminate struggle that caused innocent victims among the population was totally incoherent because it placed them.... [sentence as heard] [end recording]

These statements were given by President Alberto Fujimori during the ceremony to close the Confecamaras at the Crillon Hotel.

Bombings Attributed to Shining Path Detailed

PA2009031792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Five explosions attributed to Shining Path members occurred the morning of 19 September in the Los Sauces neighborhood, near the house where Abimael Guzman was taken. The house that belonged to a prosecuting attorney during the arrest of terrorist Osman Morote Barrios was damaged by the attack.

The residents of Los Sauces neighborhood in Zurquillo will not be the same since Abimael Guzman Reynoso was captured in one of the homes located in this zone. The prevailing calm, which was shattered one week ago, became tense on 19 September. Five bombs exploded at 0330 [0830 GMT], shattering the windows and part of the infrastructure of several homes located on the block, alarming residents.

The house owned by Mrs. Carmela Nunez was most affected. The terrorists threw three bombs at her home. One of the bombs fell on the roof, leaving a gaping hole. The attack against the home can be linked to prosecuting attorney Luzgarda Tacuri de Genit who lived there six months ago. She was present during the arrest of Osman Morote Barrios.

[Begin Nunez recording] We heard three explosions. The last one was the worst. Thank God nobody was injured. Nobody suffered even a scratch. [end recording]

Venezuela

Commander Hugo Chavez Talks About 4 Feb

PA1809181992 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 Aug 92 p D2

[Interview with Commander Hugo Chavez Frias, leader of the 4 February coup attempt, by Jose Vicente Rangel at the Yare prison; date not given]

[Text] [Rangel] Good morning, Commander Chavez.

[Chavez] Good morning, Dr. Rangel, and to all the Venezuelan people to whom we are sending a message of hope and faith to the permanent values of the Venezuelan people, who have never been and will never be bent by current governments and their deception and alienation campaigns.

[Rangel] The impression exists that you have faded away, that you are no longer news. Discussing the Chavez case on this same program, Jose Luis Bethancourt said that you cannot be in the spotlight forever. That is the reason for my question. What do you think about this?

[Chavez] An international news agency asked me a similar question a few days ago. The point is not whether the figure of a soldier like me fades away or whether he continues to be news. That could certainly concern any electoral candidate and the team of advisers who care about his image, but we, the men of the Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement 200 [MBR-200], are concerned about and hurt by other things. Most of all, we are hurt about the homeland and man and his needs.

The national situation has deteriorated to such an extent that to watch closely for a particular figure to either excel or to fade way is blasphemy, a terrible lack of respect for the morals that beat in the hearts of the Venezuelan people. Of course, I must share the opinion that Bethancourt, the eminent psychiatrist, expressed in this program several months ago. He referred to the temporary luminosity of a person, particularly when that person is carried away by the revolutionary storm, as Bolivar said in Angostura. This is an undisputed scientific truth. May I stress, however, that the country's present reality cannot depend on two or three burning figures that cross the national scenario. One thing, however, is certain: There is a generalized liveliness that spreads in civilian society and the Armed Forces. Nothing or no one will be able to stop that liveliness until the changes required by the present situation can take place.

[Rangel] Maybe you have contributed to the deterioration of your image. Many of your remarks, some of them contradictory, may have contributed to this situation which, in addition, can be explained because we are dealing with a person who is under arrest. We must take into consideration, however, that laconism is a very important virtue in the military, as it happens with everything having to do with a policy of power.

[Chavez] Your remark reminds me of a good friend who recommended silence to us in the days of the San Carlos barracks. May I reiterate to you, however, that neither MBR-200 Commander Chavez nor the officers have regarded this complex process as a means to maintain or improve a public image. We believe the social unrest and storm are of a such great magnitude that we must face the storm and responsibly hoist our sails up even at the risk of tearing them. We will always find time to mend them later. We are aware of the disinformation and dirty war campaigns in progress, the expressions and various actors used to try to negate the movement's progress,

intentions, and hopes, which are those of the Venezuelan people. We cannot refuse the requests of the few journalists who courageously have succeeded in breaking the isolation imposed by President Carlos Andres Perez's political kidnapping. We must face the storm even at the risk of losing our public image of change and seeing it crumble and fall down. There is a fundamental objective: to sail the ship out of the storm.

[Rangel] According to many, you are under limitations because you are being held in prison, you do not have any forces at your command, and you lack the opportunity you had on 4 February. Are you aware of this situation, or do you see the situation differently?

[Chavez] Validity carries with it the idea of strength. Nearly seven months after the 4 February incident, the men who carried out this effort and the MBR-200 as a civic and military organization, the three-rooted tree inspired in the philosophy and doctrine of Simon Rodriguez, Simon Bolivar, and Ezequiel Zamora, are stronger as the result of the Venezuelan people's strength. It is evident that I command no military unity and that I and my companions are being held in this cell of barely six square meters under considerable rigorous conditions. You, the fellow Venezuelans who are observing us, and we are aware that the situation has two levels of analysis: a superficial level that deals with facts, and a situational level that deals with the hidden nature of the situation.

[Rangel] Let us assume that what you say is true. Are you planning another 4 February uprising?

[Chavez] If the ruling class continues to cling to its privileges, if it is incapable of understanding the evolution of the Venezuelan political process and stubbornly resists needed changes, inevitably Venezuelan society will once gain exercise the right to rebel, as provided for in Article 250 of our Constitution.

If the outcry produces this situation, which could degenerate into a great conflict similar to the Federal War, it would not be because of the wish of the MBR-200. This is a very good opportunity to clarify that point: We are not encouraging violence. We have followed daily events, but a violent situation would be due to the stubbornness of the political leadership, the deceit with which the political leadership has handled their interests while disregarding the national outcry.

The political leadership would be the real guilty party in a situation of widespread violence such as you mentioned. We do not know if it would be like the 27 February or 4 February violence. This would take the form of a civil-military insurrection.

[Rangel] Are you making a mistake by making assumptions about this possibility? Coups d'etat are never announced beforehand. One of the reasons for the success of the 4 February uprising is that no one knew it would happen. The element of surprise is very important under these circumstances. What is your opinion?

[Chavez] As you may have realized, I am not announcing any coup d'etat. I simply state the situation the way we see it, which has repeatedly been stated by various Venezuelan personalities such as Uslar Pietri, Rafael Caldera, Monsignor Mario Moronta, and General [Fernando] Ochoa Antich. All of them have stated in one way or the other and in different places more or less the following: Either deep changes take place in the current situation, or a violent process will take place. This is not only obvious, it is a recognition of the existence of conditions that determine the emergence of a social situation.

[Rangel] The general impression is that President Carlos Andres Perez has stabilized, and it is possible that the government itself leaked that impression. Nevertheless, Perez unquestionably has time on his side. In addition, we are going to begin an election process, and we all know how that distracts the public. The process will begin in September and conclude at the end of 1993. What is your opinion?

[Chavez] The current problem needs to be examined with a broader view. That apparent exception is nothing more than another trick. The system has lost its equilibrium, structure, and capacity to regulate itself in relation to events that affect it.

It is true that the electoral processes led by the current party structures (the younger members) have the effect you mention. However, let us not forget that the definition of a crisis is a state in which the old dies and the new cannot be born.

This has had a deep impact on the Venezuelan people's political awareness, and we could say that this trick will not work with the same effectiveness as in the past.

[Rangel] Experience shows us that, almost always, military governments begin with promises of democracy that are not kept. The Venezuelan people did not associate the 4 February events with the possibility of installing a dictatorship, but on the other hand, the people feel you lacked the team to promote major government actions.

[Chavez] We are falling for the false dichotomy, dictatorship-democracy, with which the theoreticians of Latin America's pseudo-democratic regimes have tried to sway the opinion of the people and hide the grave flaws and decay of the false democratic regimes.

The MBR-200 did not seek a military dictatorship. The officers and NCO's who rebelled on 4 February did it because there really was no other alternative or option to break the regime's pattern of domination.

We conducted an armed rebellion with a constitutional obligation, as stated in Article 132 of the Constitution that outlines the functions of the Armed Forces.

On 4 February we were not able to break the pattern of domination but we did create cracks; we splintered it. We set in motion the Ezequiel Zamora Plan of Operations with the military and political objective of ousting

the current government and establishing a provisional government with broad participation from the different sectors of civilian society.

We had the Simon Bolivar Plan that began by defining the long-term model of a future society. This plan was called the original Robinsonian model, inspired by our Simon Rodriguez or Samuel Robinson. With all due responsibility, I say the MBR-200 had and continues to have a long-term plan.

[Rangel] You have been criticized for not appearing at the major theater of operations, specifically the Miraflores Palace, in the pre-dawn hours of 4 February.

[Chavez] Within the Ezequiel Zamora Plan, the central theater of operations on that day went from Carabobo Field, on the eastern edge of Cojedes State, to Maiquetia, in the shores of the Caribbean Sea. It covered Carabobo, Aragua, Guarico, Miranda, and the Federal District.

The following units were located along this entire theater of operations: an infantry brigade in Caracas, the 4th Infantry Division in Maracay, which commands the Airborne Brigade; the Armored Brigade in Valencia; the support artillery and antiaircraft missile units in San Juan de los Morros and Maracaibo; and the air support required for this operation.

This entire organized unit was under my command and the chief command post was created in La Planicie Plan where the Military History Museum is located.

For that reason only someone who has his own hidden interests can say that I was not present at the theater of operations. The physical presence of a commander at a specific objective is inadvisable because the capacity to have strategic control over actions is lost. Gen. Fernando Ochoa Antich, former defense minister, was the first to spread the rumor I failed because I did not directly lead the Miraflores Palace takeover. That major tactical action was assigned to the units stationed in Caracas, which they indeed carried out.

[Rangel] As a prisoner you are demanding your freedom, but the president has said he will not pardon you. Supposing you were pardoned, how would you react?

[Chavez] The freedom the MBR-200 officers and NCO's are demanding is not physical. We are demanding freedom for the Venezuelan people. The Venezuelan man hopes to cast off the shackles of the soul and recover his historic values. Although we are here as prisoners of the regime, we have a sublime freedom: our conscience is free.

[Rangel] What do Venezuela, the state, and politics mean to you?

[Chavez] Politics is the adoption of decisions by public means in a way that affects all of society; but more important is the knowledge of political science that allows us to predict phenomena to influence those decisions.

[Rangel] What have you read that has left the deepest impression on your life?

[Chavez] I remember The Open Veins of Latin America by Eduardo Galeano. I have read it several times. Romulo Gallegos' Cantaclaro also impressed me.

[Rangel] What historical figure has impressed you the most?

[Chavez] From childhood I was impressed by the memory of the legendary Ezequiel Zamora, general of the sovereign people.

[Rangel] Are you a Catholic?

[Chavez] I am a Catholic. I was even an acolyte during my childhood.

[Rangel] What saint did you invoke before rising up, or did you only remember Maisanta?

[Chavez] I invoked Our Lady of the Rosary, of whom I am a devotee, and the Virgin of Soccor [help], with the same scapular my great- grandfather General Pedro Perez Delgado used during his struggles against General Gomez' regime.

[Rangel] When CAP [President Perez] refers to the 4F soldiers [soldiers who participated in the 4 February uprising], he describes them as a gang. What do you think of that?

[Chavez] It reflects his inability to comprehend the reality of what is happening at the core of the national Armed Forces, and it also proves his determination to conceal that reality.

[Rangel] What does the Armed Forces represent for you?

[Chavez] I send them a greeting of hope. The Armed Forces represent a huge plot of fertilized and planted land from which we will reap fruits that will allow us to contribute in an efficient manner to the process of development that Venezuela needs, within a new framework of relations between the political and military sectors.

[Rangel] What definitive mistake did the 4F make?

[Chavez] There were several mistakes, but the definitive one was an early betrayal at midday on Monday the third, which prevented certain communications and electronic units from taking up strategic positions. Therefore, we were unable to use our communications system in an efficient manner.

[Rangel] If you had an opportunity to give the president of the Republic some advice, what would you tell him?

[Chavez] It is almost stupid to make recommendations to someone who is not capable of hearing. Venezuela's best intellects have spoken to Perez, and his response has always been the same. He has been spoken to through the deafening noise of pots, whistles, and cornets, and he has

called it childish. Therefore, it is difficult to make recommendations to a person who is not aware of the truth of the matter, who has already condemned us, who has accused us of assassination, and who considers us his personal enemies.

How can you counsel someone who has a museum made in his honor while he is still alive? Nevertheless—because you brought it up—despite the risks, I would dare to recommend to Mr. Carlos Andres Perez that he stop, reflect deeply, and then bravely adopt the attitude the Venezuelan people are demanding of him. He must convince himself that the only way to go down in history is by contributing the sacrifices and selflessness that the national situation demands of him.

Poll Indicates Perez's Popularity Drops

PA2009222592 Paris AFP in Spanish 1749 GMT 20 Sep 92

[All numbers as received]

[Text] Caracas, 20 Sep (AFP)—A total of 75 percent of Venezuelans do not feel President Carlos Andres Perez is capable of handling the country's crisis in the remaining 17 months of his term, according to a recent study released by Datos Company on 20 September in Caracas.

Of those interviewed, 29 percent said they had little trust in Perez, 46 percent had "none," 4 percent had "lots," and 6 percent had "plenty."

The poll was carried out with a total sample of 200 people in Caracas, Maracaibo, and towns with less than 2,500 inhabitants.

The Caracas morning daily EL NACIONAL pointed out that compared with the previous survey taken in May, Venezuelan's confidence in Perez has dropped 10 percent.

When asked about the president's record of solving problems, 31 percent said "he has done nothing," 47 percent said "little," and 8 percent said "he has done all he could." However, 60 percent believe that "a different government would not have done any better," while 18 percent believe it would have.

Nevertheless, 39 percent said they did not know if Perez should step down from the Presidency, 35 percent said he should, and 23 percent said he should not.

Forty-three percent of those polled by Datos prefer an "independent military person" for president.

Venezuela is still experiencing the political and social crisis brought on by the failed military coup of 4 February, lead by several Army lieutenant colonels.

Commander Hugo Chavez, the leader of the February coup attempt, was mentioned among the possible military candidates with a 45 percent preference. Italo Del Valle Alliegro, a retired Army general and former defense minister, follows with 12 percent and Foreign Relations Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich, the former defense minister and also a retired Army general, follows with 3 percent.

Of those mentioning an "independent military person," 36 percent did not name any one in particular.

Among the politicians, 33 percent believe the next president will be a Christian Democrat (from the main opposition Social Christian party, COPEI). An equal 7 percent said the next president will come from the ruling Democratic Action party (AD) or will be an independent military officer.

Another 4 percent think he will be a socialist (of the socialist Movement Toward Socialism, which is the third strongest political force).

There was a 57 percent preference shown for former President Rafael Caldera, who leads in all opinion polls; 36 percent preferred Caldera's collaborator, Eduardo Fernandez; while 21 percent prefer Claudio Fermin, the Social Democratic mayor of Caracas.

Among "independent businessmen," 5 percent think it may be television magnate Marcel Granier and writer Arturo Ulsar Pietri. Ulsar, who rejects any mention of running for office, was chosen by 9 percent of those who would prefer an "independent professor."

Among the most difficult problems facing the Venezuelan population today are inflation (51 percent), unemployment (15 percent), crime (14 percent), poor public services (10 percent) and government corruption (8 percent).

When asked which of these problems affected the country the most, 51 percent said government corruption, 18 percent said inflation, 14 percent said crime, 10 percent said unemployment, and 5 percent said poor public services.

Regarding the economic future, 53 percent said "it will be worse in the coming months," 13 percent said "better," and the rest said they "were not sure" or "did not know." While 58 percent of those polled said their situation was "worse now than one year ago," 18 percent said it was "better."

Pot Banging Protest Called 'Failure'

PA1809223392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Contrary to expectations, the population said no to the pot banging protest. Only sporadic pot banging and isolated protests were heard in remote areas of the capital. As the national media reported on 18 September, the pot banging protest in Caracas and elsewhere in the country turned out to be a failure.

In some areas of the capital, the noise of pots and pans banging was hardly heard after 2100. At approximately 2200, however, the noise vanished into thin air, giving way to a peaceful night.

One of the few areas where the pot banging protest was heard was La Vega. Few people there participated in the protest, which culminated with the explosion of an energy transformer. That resulted in a general power outage apparently caused by young bums, who also stole the sewage grilles.

In other areas like El Valle, Petare, and 23 de Enero, the protest went on without incidents.

Actions undertaken by hooded individuals also failed. They tried unsuccessfully to cause damage and disturbances in the vicinity of the Central University of Venezuela. The national press described the 17 September disturbances as moderate.

This apathy from the population shows that the people want to live in peace and work in harmony, hoping that their most urgent needs will be met some day.

The Venezuelan people are aware of the crisis Venezuela is experiencing. Violent demonstrations are not the appropriate way to face that situation. With the population's rejection of the pot banging protest, the citizens demonstrated that other mechanisms should be pursued to demand solutions for our problems, not the disruption of public order.

Foreign Ministry Objects to Political Asylum

PA1909020292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez]

[Text] In an official communique, the Foreign Ministry stated its position regarding the political asylum granted by Costa Rica to Blanca Ibanez de Lusinchi. Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich made it clear that there is a state of law in Venezuela and, therefore, no one is politically persecuted.

The Venezuelan Government reacted immediately to the Costa Rican Government's decision to grant political asylum to Blanca Ibanez de Lusinchi and the fact that Venezuela's ambassador to that nation resigned his post because of it. Foreign Minister Ochoa Antich read an official communique at Miraflores Palace.

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] The Foreign Ministry has learned through the media of the Costa Rican Government's decision to grant political asylum to Blanca Ibanez de Lusinchi. It has also learned through a note sent to the Foreign Ministry by our ambassador to Costa Rica of his resignation because of the political asylum granted to this Venezuelan citizen.

The Foreign Ministry, although aware that the right to asylum is determined by the country granting it, expresses its surprise at this decision, given that there is a full state of law in Venezuela and no one is politically persecuted. Therefore, the reasons for the Costa Rican Government's decision are unknown. [end recording]

After stressing that Costa Rica has the sovereign right to grant political asylum to whomever it deems fit, Ochoa Antich noted that Venezuela also has the sovereign right to believe that the circumstances that surrounded the granting of the asylum were not the most appropriate.

Ochoa Antich said there are no differences of opinion between the two nations. In any event, this situation should not affect bilateral relations between Venezuela and Costa Rica, he concluded.

President Asks Radio Directors To Report Truth

PA1909020592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has asked directors of radio stations to air only truthful reports and not speculation and rumors.

Very early on 17 September, President Perez met with radio station directors. After the meeting, Marietta Hernandez de Gomez, president of the Venezuelan Chamber of the Radiobroadcasting Industry, said those present at the meeting reviewed the current situation in the country, particularly the fact that an atmosphere exists that could cause instability and public disorder.

Hernandez de Gomez said President Perez requested their cooperation, taking into consideration that radio is the most effective means to reach the masses. President Perez specifically asked the directors to make sure that reports broadcast by radio are truthful and not mere speculation or rumors.

[Begin Hernandez de Gomez recording] I think radio directors have a clear idea of the role we must play in society, which is strictly to respect freedom of expression. We must admit that President Perez has always respected this right. We must realize, however, that at times we can be misguided, because of the speed of radio transmissions. Of course, radio representatives who attended the meeting and the Venezuelan Chamber of Radiobroadcasting Industry know one thing clearly: that we want to preserve our democratic system because only by doing so will we be free to do our work. [end recording]

Although the subject of constitutional amendments was not discussed at this meeting, Hernandez de Gomez said she is in favor of postponing the issue.